

THE LOST TOWNS OF THE HUMBER;

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

ON THE

Roman Geography of South East Yorkshire.

A PAPER READ, IN PART, TO THE MEMBERS OF THE

HULL LITERARY CLUB,

11th March, 1889.

BY

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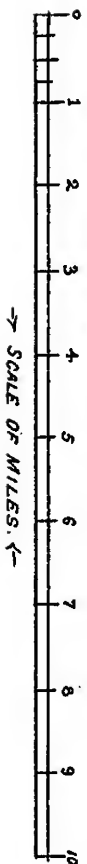
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J. R. BOYLE, DEL.

MAP SHOWING THE SITES OF THE LOST TOWNS OF THE HUMBER.



SPURN HEAD.
Lighthouse

Site of
RAVENESER ODD.

Site of
ALD RAVENSER

Site of
SUNTHORP?

Site of
ORWITHFLEET.

Site of
EAST SOMERSET?

Site of
THARLESTHORP.
SUNK ISLAND.

Site of
PENISTHORP.

Site of
EASINGTON.

PATRINGTON.

OTTRINGHAM.

HEDON.

KINGSTON
upon
HULL.
DRYPPOOL.

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PREFACE.

The preparation of this little book has realized a hope which I had cherished for many years. From the time when, during my residence in Hull, my interest in the history of East Yorkshire was first awakened, I have felt that this district offered no more interesting or inviting subject for antiquarian investigation than the history of the lost towns and villages which formerly adjoined the north shore of the Humber. I have waited many years for the leisure to unravel that history, and now, at last, amidst many other arduous literary tasks, have compelled myself to afford time for this long cherished project. The result is in the reader's hands.

A few words of explanation are necessary. I am largely indebted to previous labourers in the same field. In 1822, Mr. Thomas Thompson, of Cottingham and Hull, printed for private circulation a small work, entitled "Historic Facts, relative to the Sea Port and Market Town of Ravenspurne, in Holderness," which afterwards he included, together with a pamphlet printed in the preceding year, in his "Ocellum Promontorium ; or, Short Observations on the Ancient State of Holderness." In 1827, Mr. Charles Frost published his invaluable "Notices of the Early History of the Town and Port of Hull ;" a book which, for the original research it embodies, and

the learning it displays, takes rank amongst the very highest class of topographical works, whilst in point of painstaking accuracy, it has, amongst English literature of this kind, scarcely, if at all, an equal. Next, in 1840 and 1841, came Mr. George Poulson's "History and Antiquities of the Seigniory of Holderness;" a book which may be described as a valuable compilation, but which, unfortunately, is disfigured throughout by great want of care in minute details, and, in every respect, falls far short of the literary merits of his "Beverlac." From 1866 to 1868, Mr. Edward A. Bond edited, for the Master of the Rolls, the Chronicle of Meaux, written near the end of the fourteenth century by Thomas Burton, one of the abbots of that house, and continued by an unknown later scribe. Lastly, Mr. Lewis L. Kropf contributed, in 1887, a short series of papers to Mr. W. G. B. Page's valuable, but (alas!) too short-lived, "Hull and East-Riding Portfolio." From all these sources I have derived information; but the authority on which I have drawn most largely, is Mr. Bond's edition of the Chronicle of Meaux. I have diligently consulted and largely used the publications of the Record Commissioners. I have not, however, limited myself to printed authorities. The Public Record Office has yielded a considerable number of important documents, which throw new and interesting light on the subject of the following pages.

I have preferred to tell the story of these lost towns, as far as possible, in the language of the

documents I quote, rather than in my own. Even where I have only given an abstract of a document, as in the long series of extracts from the *Rotuli Scotiae*, I have adhered as closely as possible to its phraseology. It would have been easy to introduce few or no quotations, and in this way, very possibly, to produce a more readable result. But I have preferred to place the reader in the position of one who has the original sources of information before him, arranged in orderly sequence and translated into the language with which he is most familiar. The substance of almost the whole of the following pages has been translated from mediæval Latin and Norman-French documents. The originals are often couched in grotesque, cumbrous, and extremely involved language. It would be unreasonable to expect that I have invariably translated with complete accuracy. I have tried, however, to make my renderings both literal and perspicuous. If the reader find long and involved sentences, which need to be re-read before their meaning becomes clear, I would assure him that in every case the original sentence is as long, and sometimes considerably more involved. If, in some passage, I have tripped, I am confident of a merciful judgment from every one who is familiar with this kind of work.

Throughout these pages the reader will find great variety in the orthography of place-names. In this respect I have always followed the spelling of the document I have quoted. In my own connecting

sentences and paragraphs I have conformed to modern usage. If, by the plan I have adopted, I have not aided the student of place-name etymologies, I have at least placed no needless obstacles in his way.

I have uniformly translated the Latin word *villa* by the English word *town*. In the chronicles and other records of the middle ages, *villa* is used in a very different sense from that in which it is employed by the classic writers. In those records it never means a single habitation, but is used to describe a hamlet, a village, or what we should call a town.

I hope hereafter to supplement this book by a similar one on the "Lost Towns and Churches of the Yorkshire Coast."

Lastly, I wish to place on record my sense of the kind and appreciative way in which this book was received, when I had the great pleasure and privilege of reading a selection from its contents to the members of the Hull Literary Club.

LOW FELL, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE,
22nd April, 1889.

THE LOST TOWNS OF THE HUMBER.

IN ROMAN TIMES.



OUR first authority on the Roman geography of Britain is Claudius Ptolomaeus, who flourished about A.D. 120. His description of what he calls the Bretannik Island Albion begins with its northern extremity, from which he proceeds along the west and south coasts. He then returns to the north and surveys the east coast. After this he gives a list of the principal tribes which occupied the island, with the names of the most important towns in the territory of each tribe. After speaking of the Elgovae and the Otadeni, tribes which occupied the south of Scotland and the county of Northumberland, he tells us that south of those tribes, and "reaching to both seas, dwell the Brigantes." He then enumerates the principal towns of this tribe, giving to each its latitude and longitude, as estimated by him. They are,

	Lon.	Lat.
Epeiakon	18° 30'	58° 30'
Vinnovion	17 30	58
Katourraktonion	20	58
Kalaton.....	19	57 30
Isourion	20	57 40
Rhigodounon	18	57 30
Olikana.....	19	57 30
Eborakon	20	57 20

Sixth Legion, the Victorious.

Kamounlodounon	18 15	57
----------------------	-------	----

Near these [the Brigantes], about the well-havened bay (*περὶ τον ἐυλίμενον κόλπον*), are the Parisii, and the town Petouaria 20 40 56 40

Of the towns of the Brigantes five are in Yorkshire, and can all be identified. Katourraktonion is Catterick, the Cataractonium of Antonine's first, second, and fifth iters. Isourion is Aldborough in north Yorkshire, the Isurium of the first and second iters, and the Isubrîgantum of the fifth. Olikana is Ilkley. Eborakon, the Eburacum of the iters, as everyone knows, is York; and Kamounlodounon, the Cambodunum of the second iter, it is generally agreed, is Slack. So far as these places are concerned, the relative positions assigned to them by Ptolomy are correct, though the distances between them are not so. But where is "the well-havened bay," and where is Petouaria, the chief town of the Parisii? Ptolomy's survey of the Yorkshire coast will help us to answer the first of these questions. After "the outlets of the river Tinna" (the Tyne), he enumerates the following points:

Boderia estuary	22° 30'	58° 45'
Outlets of the river Alaunos ...	21 40	58 30
Outlets of the river Vedra	20 10	58 30
Dounon bay.....	20 15	57 30
The well-havened bay of the Gabrantouiki	21	57
Okellos promontory.....	21 15	56 40
Outlets of the river Abos.....	21	56 30

Now, "the well-havened bay of the Gabrantouiki (Γαβραντούικων εὐλίμενος κόλπος)" is certainly identical with "the well-havened bay" about which dwelt the Parisii, and must be sought between Dounon bay and Okellos promontory. Without staying to discuss the site of the Boderia estuary we may safely accept the Alaunos as the Tees and the Vedra as the Wear, and assume that the places of these rivers have been transposed in Ptolomy's list. Such transposition was probably made by Ptolomy himself, for the latitude given to both rivers is the same. Three points remain to be identified between the Tees and the Humber, two of which are bays. Now the two most noteworthy and naturally available bays on the Yorkshire coast are Filey Bay and Bridlington Bay. The former, there can be little doubt, is the Dounon bay, and the latter the well-havened bay of the Gabrantouiki. If we identified the Okellos promontory with Flamborough

Head we should be under the necessity, because both of their order in the list and of the latitudes ascribed to them, of fixing both the Dounon bay and the bay of the Gabrantouiki north of this point. This would remove the bay of the Gabrantouiki too far from the territory of the Parisii, and would require us to discover two conspicuous bays where, in reality, there is only one.

The Okellos promontory is therefore Spurn. If it be contended, by those who claim that Okellos is Flamborough Head, that Spurn is not really a promontory at all, it is sufficient to say that Ptolomy's word ἄκρον, which it has been customary to translate by the Latin *promontorium*, is as appropriately descriptive of lateral projection as of vertical elevation. The 10' distance which Ptolomy gives between the mouth of the Humber and Spurn is sufficiently accounted for if we suppose that by the outlet of the river the geographer means the middle of the stream. And it must never be forgotten that Ptolomy's minutes, and, to a large extent, his degrees also, evidently depended much more on the convictions of the observer's inner consciousness than on accurate instrumental observation. Ptolomy's 10' may safely be considered to mean "a short distance," whilst 1° may represent anything between 30 miles and a hundred, and possibly, sometimes, even a still greater range. The great value of Ptolomy's latitudes and longitudes is that they point to one place as being north, east, west, or south of another, and, in this respect, whenever the places he mentions can be certainly identified, I almost always find him accurate. So far as the Roman geography of Yorkshire is concerned he is strictly so.

We have still to determine the site of Petouaria. Ptolomy places it due west of Spurn and exactly south-east of York. There is but one place which in any way answers to both these requirements. That place is Brough, which has from time to time yielded such evidence of Roman occupation as to leave no doubt that it was an important station. In this respect Beverley is in no sense its rival, for there extremely few Roman remains have been found, and these have been of an altogether unimportant character.*

*The reader who has read Mr. Kropf's interesting papers on *The Early History of Spurn Head*, in *The Hull and East Riding Portfolio*, will see that I differ entirely from that writer's estimate of the value of Ptolomy's geography. I am afraid that Mr. Kropf has led himself

The only other source of information respecting the Roman geography of our district is the first iter of Antonine, which commences at Bremenium and terminates at Praetorium. Till we reach York the stations mentioned in the iter need not occupy our attention. They are all identified, and there is no controversy about them. But this is not the case with the stations which follow York. The following is the portion of the itinerary in which these stations occur :

Derventione	M.P. vii.
Delgovitia	M.P. xiii.
Praetorio	M.P. xxv.

The word Derventio is evidently a Latinized form of a Celtic name, as, possibly, Delgovitia may be also. The Celtic name, *Dwr-gwyn*, meaning "the clear water," survives in Derwent, the name of the river on which the station Derventio must be sought, and from which it took its appellation. Camden, Burton, Baxter and others fix this station at Aldby. Drake favours Stamford Bridge, whilst Horsley, committing himself to no definite theory, thinks Kexby a suitable place for such a station. Probably Stamford Bridge, where alone, as Drake points out, the Derwent is fordable below Malton, has the best claims. Its distance from York accords very well with that given by Antonine.

Delgovitia, the second station from York, is placed by Camden, Burton, Gale and Horsley at Market Weighton. Drake, in his *Eboracum*, contends for Londesborough, but afterwards changed his opinion, and adopted that of Dr. John Burton and others, who held that this station was located near Millington, on the brow of the wolds above Pocklington. But Millington is only about $7\frac{1}{2}$ Roman miles from either Aldby, Stamford Bridge, or Kexby, whereas the distance in the iter between Derventio and Delgovitia is 13 miles. The fatal objection to Weighton is that there is no evidence of the existence of a Roman station there.* If, however, we measure thirteen Roman astray by a most unfortunate blunder. He accuses Ptolomy of having placed Aldborough "some 20' to the south of Eboracum," and brings this forward, both in his text and on his map, as evidence of the geographer's inaccuracy! Yet in reality Ptolomy puts Aldborough 20' north of York!!

*There is a curious note in Dr. John Smith's edition of Bede, in annotation on the passage in which Bede speaks of Godmunddingaham (the modern Goodmanham), which he calls "locus ille quondam idolorum," as the place where Coifi destroyed the heathen temple. Smith says, "Hodie etiam nomen retinet 'Godmundham,' id est, Deorum Septum. Locus

miles, that is nearly twelve English ones, from Stamford Bridge in another direction we are at Old Malton, a place where Roman remains of an extensive and important character have been found from time to time.* These remains are such as to leave no question that Old Malton occupies the site of an important Roman station. With the theory which carries the first iter of Antonine across Holderness this station is left without name, unless we adopt the absurd notion that it is the Kamounlodounon of Ptolomy. If, however, we find evidence that the site of the next station, Praetorium, must be fixed at Filey Brigg, it becomes absolutely certain that Old Malton is Delgovitia. Between these places the distance in a straight line is $23\frac{1}{2}$ Roman miles, which allows a mile and a half for the slight divergences from such a line of the actual road. Now Car-ness or Filey Brigg is certainly the site of another important Roman station. Discoveries in 1857, which yielded a fragment of an imperial inscription, the stone foundations and pillar bases of a large and important hall, as well as large quantities of pottery and other antiquities, leave no question on this point.† The evidences of Roman occupation of this place would doubtless have been much greater, had not a considerable part of the promontory, on which the station stood, been carried away by the encroachments of the sea, before the attention of antiquaries was directed to the subject.

Praetorium must have been an important sea-port. No place on the Yorkshire coast offered such natural advantages for the establishment of such a port as Filey Bay, the Dounon bay of Ptolomy. That a Roman road led hence in the direction of Malton is certain.

celebris non solum Saxonibus, sed etiam Romanis, imo Britannicis idolatriis. Juxta situm est Delgovitium, quod Camden deducit a Britannico 'Delgwe,' quod apud illum 'Deorum statuas' denotat, hodie 'Wigton,' id est, 'Idolorum oppidum.'

All this is interesting, but would not serve to identify Weighton with Delgovitia, even if Delgovitia be a Latinized form of the Celtic *Delgwe*, unless it could be shown that there was but one "locus idolorum" at a suitable distance from Stamford Bridge. But I confess to never having been convinced, notwithstanding the authority of Isaac Taylor (*Words and Places*) and Mr. Cole (*Scandinavian Place Names, &c.*), that Weighton is not *Wæg-ton*, "the town on the way."

*See *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1861, i., p. 318; and 1862, ii., p. 557.

Malton, I may mention, has yielded three inscribed Roman stones, and Norton, which is across the Derwent from Malton, has yielded one. The stone from Norton is the sign of a goldsmith named Servulus, who before announcing his name and trade, prays the *Genius loci* to be auspicious to him.

† See a very valuable paper on discoveries at Car-ness by W. S. Cortis, M.D., in the *Twenty-sixth Report of the Scarborough Philosophical and Archaeological Society*, 1858.

Its course has been traced, and in the neighbourhood of Flotmanby it is commonly called "The Street,"—a designation given by the Saxons to Roman roads, and which, in very many cases besides the famous Watling, Ermin and the Ikniel Streets, is perpetuated to the present day. Three instances I shall presently notice.

From the time of Camden, Patrington has generally been considered to be Praetorium. Yet it has never yielded the slightest evidence of continued Roman occupation. The remarkably worked stone found about 120 years ago in taking down an old post and panel house near Patrington church, and which has been called a Roman altar, is certainly nothing of the kind. I believe it may be safely pronounced to be not even of Roman workmanship. But apart from all this, Patrington is too far from York to be Praetorium. From Eburacum to Praetorium, according to Antonine, the distance is $7 + 13 + 25 = 45$ miles, whereas in a perfectly straight line the distance between York and Patrington is over 53 Roman miles. This fact of distance, I need scarcely say, is fatal to any claim on behalf of some destroyed port beyond Patrington, and nearer the mouth of the Humber.

There were, of course, many Roman roads in Yorkshire, as throughout the country, which are not described by Antonine. One of these is a road which appears to have diverged from the road from York at Malton and proceeded in a more direct line to Filey. Its existence is proved by several camps on its course, and by the name of a village through which it passes,—Wharram le Street. Another road also led from Stamford Bridge to Filey, the course of which has been traced for two-thirds of its length. The line of the latter road is considerably to the south of the former. It is known as Garrowby Street. A third unrecorded road led from Brough to Market Weighton, whence it continued forward to Malton, with probably a direct branch from Weighton to York. This road, which has been traced at Drewton near South Cave and near Weighton, was till very recent times called Humber Street by the country people, and, for anything I know, may be still so called.*

*See *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1852, i., p. 483; 1853, ii., 165, 269.

IN SAXON TIMES.



HERE is but one scrap of Saxon history which can be connected with any lost town on the Humber. When Ceolfrid, the first abbot of the monastery of Jarrow, and afterwards abbot of the twin monasteries of Jarrow and Monkwearmouth, finding age and infirmity creeping upon him, determined to make a final pilgrimage to Rome, he travelled on horseback across the counties of Durham and York to the monastery of Albert, which is described as being "situate in a place which is called In Cornu Vallis."* This information is contained in an anonymous *Lives of the Blessed Abbots of Wearmouth and Jarrow*. The same book tells us that Ceolfrid sailed from the Humber, carrying with him two pandects of the new translation of the Scriptures, intended as a present to the pope. One of these pandects has been recently identified with the famed Codex Amiatinus, a truly magnificent manuscript, apart from the fact that it contains the most valuable text of the old vulgate version now in existence. This splendid codex is undoubtedly the work of some scribe in the then recently founded monasteries of Jarrow or Monkwearmouth, and it is extremely interesting to know that such a precious cargo was shipped early in the eighth century from some lost and forgotten port on the north shore of the Humber. Ceolfrid left Monkwearmouth on the 4th June, 715. Exactly a month afterwards he sailed from the Humber. On the 12th August he landed on the shore of France, and on the 25th September he died at Langres, with the goal of his earthly pilgrimage still far away, but with the goal of his heavenward pilgrimage close at hand.

It is of course impossible to do more than guess where the port of Ceolfrid's departure may have been. "In Cornu Vallis" is doubtless a monk's translation into Latin of what he understood the Saxon place name to mean.

* Giles's edition of *Bede*, vi., pp. 423-5.

RAVENSER.

BEFORE THE CONQUEST.



HE name of this chief amongst the lost towns of the Humber suggests that it was originally a Danish settlement. Such is doubtless the fact. The first part of the name is that of the Danish standard, a raven. The last part, *eyr* or *ore*, "denotes a narrow strip of land between two waters."* It is singular that whilst Ravenser is never mentioned in pre-Conquest times in our English chronicles, it is named at least three times in ancient Icelandic literature, though always, so far as I have discovered, in connection with the same event. That event was the battle of Stamford Bridge. The account given of this battle in the Saxon Chronicle is well known. The following passage from the Orkeyinga Saga supplies additional particulars, and mentions the departure of Olaf and the remnant of the army of northmen from Ravenser.

"At the time when the brothers Paul and Erlendr had taken up the rule in Orkney, there arrived at the east side of the island from Norway Harold Sigurdson with a large army. He came first to Shetland. Went from thence to Orkney. There he left queen Ellisif, and their daughters, Maria and Ingigerdi. From Orkney he had much help. Both the jarls joined the expedition of the king. The king thence went south to England, and landed where it is called Klifland, and came to Skardaborg. Then he proceeded to Hallornes, and had there a battle, and got the victory. Wednesday next before St. Matthew's day he had a battle at Jorvik [York] with jarls Valthjof [Waltheof] and Morukara [Morcar]. There Morukara fell. Sunday after was the town (borg) delivered up to king Harold, who stayed at Stafnfurdu-brygg. Monday after he went by land to the ships' harbour. He appointed to look after the ships Olaf his son, and jarls Paul and Erlendr, and Eystein with his brother Thorberg Arnason. On their land expedition Harold the king and Harold Gudinason with a numerous army met each other. There immediately began a great battle. And in the fight fell Harold Sigurdson. After the king's fall came Eystein also from the ships and the jarls, and made a hard fight. This battle was called Orra-el or Orra-hrid [*i.e.*, Second round, or Second fight]. There fell Eystein also, with

* Isaac Taylor's *Words and Places*, 3rd ed., p. 331.

the greater part of the army of the northmen. After this battle Harold the king allowed Olaf the son of Harold and the jarls to depart from England and all of their army who had not fled. Olaf sailed out from the village (haustid) of Hrafnseyri, and on to Orkney." *

The Harolds Hardrada Saga, gives a far more detailed account of the same events. I only need quote the passage which refers to the departure of the fleet from Ravenser.

"Olaf, son of Harold Sigurdson, led the fleet from England, setting sail at Hrafnseyri, and in the autumn came to Orkney. Of whom Stein Herdisson makes mention.

The king the swift ships with the flood
Set out, with the autumn approaching,
And sailed from the port, called
Hrafnseyrr (the raven tongue of land).
The boats passed over the broad track
Of the long ships ; the sea raging,
The roaring tide was furious around the ships' sides." †

This quotation from a poem by Stein Herdisson is especially valuable since it gives the meaning of the place name Ravenser on ancient and unquestionable authority. The whole poem, which is called Olafs Drápa, *i.e.*, Olaf's Praise, is printed in Vigfusson and Powell's *Corpus Poeticum Boreale* (Vol. ii., p. 224-7).

**Icelandic Sagas* (Chronicles and Memorials), Vol. i., p. 60-61.

†*Fornmanna Sögur* (Copenhagen, 1831) vi., p. 427. *Scripta Historica Islandorum*, (Copenhagen, 1835). vi., p. 396-7.

RAVENSER.

AFTER THE CONQUEST.



AFTER the Norman Conquest we hear nothing of Ravenser for nearly two centuries. In the meantime the town of Odd, or as it is almost invariably called, Ravenserodd, had sprung into existence. Its origin is described in the Hundred Rolls, in inquisitions taken in the third and fourth years of Edward I (1274-1276). The men of Grimisby say,

“that forty years ago and more [that is, about or before 1235] by the casting up of the sea, sand and stones accumulated, on which accumulation William de Fortibus, then earl of Albemarl, began to build a certain town which is called Ravenesodd; and it is an island: the sea surrounds it.”*

In the same great series of inquisitions Ravenserodd is alluded to as

“a certain encroachment [which] has been made in the county of York by William de Fortibus, at one time earl of Albemarl, at Ravensher.”†

This extract implies the proximity of the new town to the old one. From the time however, when Ravenserodd, like Aphrodite, was born of the ocean, the history of the two towns is so interblended, that any attempt to treat them separately would necessarily cause needless repetition, and would lead to confusion and uncertainty. Abbot Burton, the chronicler of the abbey of Meaux, tells us that

“that town of Odd, which was situated near Ravenserre, was commonly called Ravenserre, as well as the other.”‡

In an important passage which follows that just quoted, but which occurs again in an extended form in another part of the chronicle, the abbot gives us a very explicit account of the sites of Ravenser and Ravenserodd. It will be most convenient here to supplement the text of one passage by that of the other.

“That the distinction between the two towns may be known [it may be mentioned that] the former Ravenserre, where now nothing remains

* *Rotuli Hundredorum*, i., pp. 292, 402.

† *Ibid*, i., pp. 264, 880.

‡ *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 80.

except a single manor-house with its appurtenances, and which is inland, and distant both from the sea and the Humber, is called Ald Ravenserre, and this by the people of to-day, although the other town is altogether consumed."* "But that town of Ravensere Odd, at one time commonly called Odd near Ravensere, and afterwards [simply] Ravensere, occupying a position in the utmost limits of Holderness, between the waters of the sea and those of the Humber, was distant from the main land (a firma terra) a space of one mile and more. For access to which from ancient time from Ald Ravensere a sandy road extended, covered with round and yellow stones, thrown up in a little time by the height of the floods, having a breadth which an archer can scarcely shoot across, and wonderfully maintained by the tides of the sea on its east side, and the ebb and flow of the Humber on its west side. Which road yet remains visible both to pedestrian and equestrian travellers; but in its furthest part, for the space of half a mile, has been washed into the Humber since those days by the tides of the sea. Of the site therefore of the said town of Ravensere Odd scarcely a vestige remains. Which town, belonging to the parish of the church of Esyngton, was distant from the town of Esyngton about four miles. Between which towns of Esyngton and Odd, the town of Kynse and the town of Sunthorpe and the manor of Ald Ravensere in the parish of the church of Kynse are known lie midway." †

During the abbacy of Michael de Brun, the eighth abbot of Meaux (1235-1249), the abbey acquired possessions both in Ravenser and in Ravenserodd.

"Stephen de Thorpe, knight, gave unto us a yearly rent of one mark out of one carucate of land in Ravenserre, which Alan Barell and his sons held in villanage. And the third William de Fortibus, earl of Albemarle, gave us a place with its appurtenances, containing half an acre of land in the borough of Odd near Ravenserre; that there we might be able, as we wished, to construct for ourselves buildings suitable for our store both of herrings and other kinds of fish, in order to provide, as often as and whenever we wished, fish and other necessities for our own use. And besides he confirmed to us the aforesaid rent of one mark in Ald Ravenser; and freed us for ever from all service and exaction, toll, tax, action at law, and other usages pertaining to the said land in Odd according to the usage of a burgage." ‡

This grant from William de Fortibus must be dated between 1241 and 1249; for in the former year he succeeded to the seignory of Holderness, and in the latter year abbot Michael, during whose abbacy the grant was made, died.

In the middle of the thirteenth century Ravenserodd had become

* *Ibid.*, ii., p. 30.

† *Ibid.*, iii., p. 121-2.

‡ *Ibid.*, ii., p. 29.

a place of considerable importance. Early in the year 1251, Henry III. granted a charter to William de Fortibus, in which after granting him the right of a free-warren in the lands of the lordship of Pocklington, he gives him the right to hold a weekly market and a fair of sixteen days in Ravenserodd. Of the latter part of the charter the following is a translation.

“ We have granted also to the said earl that he and his heirs for ever may have a market in each week on Thursday at his manor of Ravenserot in the county of York, and that they may have there a fair in each year continuing from the vigil of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary [8th September] for fifteen days next following ; except that market and that fair shall be to the injury of neighbouring markets and fairs. Wherefore we will etc. Witnesses, R. de Clar' earl of Gloucester and Hertford, H. de Boun' earl of Essex and Hereford, William de Valence our brother, John Maunsell provost of Beverley, Ralph son of Nicholas, Peter Pievr', Robert Waleran, Stephen Bauthan, Roger de Lokinton, William Gernun, John de Geres and others. Given by our hand at Westminster the 22nd day of February [1250-1] ” *

Hitherto we have heard nothing of Ravenser as a port, but in 1256, Henry III. gave a charter to the burgesses of Scarborough, in which he promised them that “ no port or quay may be made, or permitted to be made, by the king or his heirs, or any other person, between the said borough [of Scarborough] and Ravenser.” †

An account of knights' fees in Holderness, compiled in the latter part of the reign of Henry III., states that there were there 16 bovates of land in Ravenser. ‡

William de Fortibus died at Amiens in 1260, leaving to the monks of Meaux the half of his chapel and a hundred marks, with his heart, which they buried in the presbytery of their church near the body of his daughter. The other half of his chapel, another hundred marks, and his body he left to the canons of Thornton. They buried him at the feet of his mother. § Isabella, his widow, retained possession of his lands, and of Ravenserodd amongst the rest. The great survey of England, compiled in the early years of Edward I., and known as the Hundred Rolls, records the complaints of the people of Grimsby and other places against the deeds of the men of Ravenserodd and

* Rotuli Chartarum, anno 35 Hen. III., m. 12.

† Hinderwell's *Scarborough*, ed. of 1798, p. 112.

‡ Surtees Society, xlix., p. 375.

§ *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 106.

of the countess of Albemarl. The men of Grimsby declare that forestalling is carried on by the people of Ravenesodd to an extent which injures the town of Grimsby and the surrounding country to the amount of £100 a year. They also say,

“that the men of the said town of Ravenesodd go out with their boats (batelli) into the high sea, where there are ships carrying merchandise, and intending to come to Grimsby with their merchandise. The said men hinder those ships [from coming to Grimsby], and lead them to Ravenes[er] by force when they cannot amicably persuade them to go thither.” *

The men of Holderness had also their complaint to prefer.

“They say that Isabella, countess of Albemarl, by Robert Hildyard her bailiff takes toll at Od; namely, of the nets of all ships brought to land for the purpose of being dried, 4d. And the men of Od distrain for their debts as in a borough. And the said countess makes there a port, and causes it to be rebuilt, whereby the king's ports of Grimsby, Scardeburg and Hedon, are greatly injured. And there she holds a court as in a borough. They know not by what warrant.” †

When, in 1285, the Yorkshire portion of the document known as Kirkby's Inquest was compiled, the heirs of Ingelram de Risum held in Ravenser two carucates of land, of which 48 carucates made a knight's fee. ‡

In 1286, letters patent were granted to the merchants of Ravensersodd, giving them the exclusive right of selling bread and beer in the town. This document is printed in Latin, and, though not very correctly, in an English translation, by Mr. Thompson. The following is a more faithful rendering.

“The king to all to whom, etc., saluting. Because we learn by an inquisition which we have caused to be made by our beloved and faithful Thomas de N. our escheator beyond Trent, that our people the merchants of Ravensroad are well and sufficiently able to supply in every period of the year to all and everyone resorting to that town, good bread and good beer, according to our assize therein provided, and this they are ready to do, and in nothing to fail; and that strangers, not residing in the aforesaid town of Ravensroad, influenced by cupidity, bring bread and beer in ships to be sold there, to the injury of those our people and merchants, and the great deterioration of their estate and that of the town aforesaid, and against the usage of towns so situated on the sea: We wishing to provide for the indemnity of our people and merchants in this matter, grant to them, that no stranger shall presume to sell bread or beer in the port or in the sea near the afore-

* *Rotuli Hundredorum*, i., p. 292.

† *Ibid.*, i., p. 107.

‡ *Surtees Society*, xlix., p. 75.

said town of Ravensroad against the will of the people our merchants aforesaid ; and therefore we command you that, so far as in you lies, you do not permit anything to be done against the will of the people and merchants aforesaid. Teste Rege.*

Ravenserodd prospered, and the grievances of Grimsby increased. The inhabitants of the latter town found such efficient rivalry of their interests in the enterprise displayed by the people of Ravenserodd that they appealed to the king alleging that great injury and wrong was being daily done to them. On the 1st August, 1290, the king issued a writ that inquiry should be made, and early in September in the same year, an inquisition was held at Grimsby. Both the writ and the inquisition are interesting documents, and, as neither has ever been printed, I add unabridged translations of them.

“Edward, by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine, to his beloved and faithful Gilbert de Thornewton and Robert de Schaddewrth, saluting. Because we learn from the grave complaint of the mayor and our burgesses of Grymesby that whereas ships with wines, fishes, herrings and other merchandise from various foreign and home parts have been accustomed to harbour in the port of that town and not elsewhere in those parts, and to sell those goods and merchandise there, and to pay the customs thence arising in part payment of the farm of that our town by the hand of our bailiffs there, the bailiffs and men of Isabella de Fortibus, countess of Albemarle, of the town of Ravenserod, which she has caused to be built anew in a certain island within the sea distant ten or twelve leagues (leucæ) from the aforesaid town of Grymesby, have arrested for a long time with a strong hand in the sea the ships with the goods contained in them, which in this way have been accustomed so to harbour in our port aforesaid, and with threatening and force have compelled, and from day to day do compell them to turn aside to the aforesaid new town and to remain there, and there to sell their merchandise, so that these our men, by such compulsion and subtraction, are so impoverished that they are not able to pay us the debt due to us for the farm of the aforesaid town, unless such ships may be able to harbour at our port aforesaid without hindrance of the said men of Ravenserod, as they were before that town was founded. And they have been accustomed to hold a certain market, which the said countess causes to be proclaimed and held there without warrant. We, being unwilling any longer to sustain such unrepaired injury so done to us or our men aforesaid, but desiring to aid our said men if they have been so oppressed with injustice, appoint you to enquire, by the oath as well of knights as of other upright and loyal men of the county of Lincoln, by whom the truth of this matter may be better known, concerning the hindrances and forestalling of ships aforesaid, whether

* Thompson's *Ocellum Promontorium*, p. 138; from Hargrave's *Law Tracts*, i., p. 79.

these things have been done to our injury or that of our men, or the depression of our town of Grymesby aforesaid, and by whom, or by whose order [these things have been done], and at what time, and by what warrant, the aforesaid market has been proclaimed and held, and to what amount our aforesaid town of Grymesby, by the aforesaid cause, has been deteriorated . . . also the full truth concerning all other circumstances done there, with the contingences of every kind. And therefore we command you that on a certain day which shall be appointed for this purpose, you shall go to the aforesaid town of Grymesby, and make inquisition there, and the same . . . make without delay to be sent to us with this writ. We command also our sheriff of the county aforesaid that at a certain . . . he . . . shall cause to come before you at Grymesby all and such as well knights and other upright and loyal men . . . by whom the truth of the matter in the premises may be better known and enquired. In testimony of which these letters . . . we have made patents. Witnessed by me at Leghton, the first day of August in the 18th year of our reign." *

The following is the report of the commissioners :—

“Inquisition taken at Grumsby on the Sabbath day next after the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary [8th September] in the 18th year of the reign of king Edward, before Gilbert de Thornton and Robert de Schadwrd, appointed by the king’s writ to inquire concerning the hindrances and forestallings of ships, which have been laden with various merchandise, and which have been accustomed to come and harbour at Grumsby, done by the men of Rawenserod, and concerning other grievances and injuries done to the men of Grumsby by the men of Raweneserod, by which the aforesaid town of Grumsby has been much deteriorated ; by the jurors undernamed, namely, Robert de Rochewell, Sayer Scawin, John de Hanley, Robert de Thoresby, Robert de Abingdon, Richard de Newhous, Robert Maundewile, William de St. Paul de Leysebey, Ralph Malet de Irby, Hugh de Brakenberg, John son of Roger de Stalingburg, and Benedict de Leysebey, priest, who say on their oath that in the time of King Henry, the father of the present King, at first by the casting up of the sea, a certain small island was born, which is called Rawenserod, which is distant from the town of Grumsby by the space of one tide. And at first fishermen dried their nets there, and a few men begun to dwell and remain there, and afterwards ships laden with various merchandise begun to discharge and sell their merchandise there. And more than this, that the aforesaid island is nearer the sea than the town of Grumsby. And because ships can more easily harbour there than at Grumsby, almost all ships stay, discharge and sell there. They say also that Walter, son of Ralph de Seleby, William Brune, Peter de Mari and Hugh de Cotes, together with certain other unknown persons of the island of Raweneserod, according to their custom, go out with their little boats to ships in the Humber and in the sea laden with

* Chancery Inquisition, 18 Ed. I., no. 145.

various merchandise, and conduct the merchants and sailors to harbour at Rawenser, saying that the burgesses of Grumsby, after their accustomed manner, cheapen the price of things sold there. And they [*i.e.*, the men of Ravenserodd] say that a last of herrings is worth but twenty shillings at Grumsby, where [in reality] it is worth forty shillings. So that by words, offers and bids they detain them so long a time that they cannot come to the chosen port of Grumsby, so that by such forestalling the town of Grumsby, in every year after the coronation of the present king, has been impoverished to the amount of 100 marks. They say, moreover, that the men of the aforesaid town of Grumsby are not able to pay their farm rent unless [ships] passing by Rawenser may harbour at Grumsby without hindrance at Rawenser—so that the aforesaid town is in part abandoned. Asked during what period had men lived at Rawenserod, they say that forty years ago a certain ship was cast away on Rawenserod, where there was no house then built, which ship a certain person appropriated to himself, and from it made for himself a cabin (*scala sive casa*) which he inhabited for some time, that there he received ships and merchants and sold them meat and drink, and afterwards others begun to dwell there; and they say that 30 years ago there were no more than four houses (*mansiones*) there. They say also that before the last four years the men of Grumsby who bought fish and herrings and other merchandise from fishermen and others coming with their ships to Grumsby, did not at once pay the price, but reckoned wrongly with the aforesaid merchants, and cheapened that price, and made the merchants stay there until they were satisfied; and this is another reason why ships do not harbour at Grumsby, as they were accustomed to do. And on account of this fact the town is deteriorated to the amount of 40 pounds. But they say truly that now they faithfully pay those merchants the price agreed between them, and cheapen nothing thereof, so that all merchants coming thither with their merchandise are satisfied within three tides. And they say that Isabella de Fortibus, countess of Albemarl, is lady of the aforesaid island, and takes the profits thereof. And that the men dwelling there, every day, at their own free will, buy and sell fish and herrings and other victuals and other merchandise, nor is there any fixed day to hold a market there. They say, moreover, that the men of Rawenserod take toll, after the manner of a borough, of ships and other merchandise coming thither, as well of those of Grumsby as of other places, namely, of every ship with a rudder laden with herrings, for each last of herrings contained in the ship, 4d., and of every boat (*batellus*) for each last of herrings, 1d. And of other ships and boats laden with any other kind of merchandise . . . toll . . . they know not what nor how much. In witness whereof the jurors of this inquisition have affixed their seal.” *

The result of this inquisition did not meet the wishes of the people of Grimsby. Indeed, it appears that their own hands were not clear of evil practices, and of their more serious charges against the

* Chancery Inquisition, 18 Edward I., no. 145.

inhabitants of Ravenserodd the jurors were plainly unable to gather any evidence which they deemed worth recording. In little more than a year after the inquisition was held the case came before the court of the King's Bench. The following is a translation of the record of the case, as entered on the rolls of that court :

“ Walter, son of Ralph de Seleby, William Brun, Peter de la Mer, Hugh de Paul, Roger Fhys, Derman son of Walter, Priest John de Drax, John de Bradele, William Whyt. John Acard, William de Araz, Henry del Ward, Richard Gril, Richard le Serjeant, Hugh Keling, Walter de Cathone, Peter le Whyte, Hugh Eren, Simon Atte Se, Walter Pyngel, Richard Shail, Robert de Cotes, Richard le Taverner steward of Beverley, Thomas Chusur, John de Crull, Alan de Skardeburgh, Gilbert Trewe, Alexander Cok, Hugh Knote, Stephen de Patrington, Thomas Chaumpeneys, Roger le Bucher [butcher], William de Hill, William Rose, John Rose and Walter Atte Chirche were attached to respond to the pleading of the mayor and commonalty of Grymesby, for what reasons they had violently arrested, by various forces, various merchants, as well foreign as native, both in the sea and in the water of the Humber, with their ships and boats laden with wines, fish and various other merchandise, directing their course towards the aforesaid town of Grymesby, and wishing to harbour in that port, in order to deal there with the merchandise aforesaid, and had compelled them to go to the town of Ravenserod and there to harbour, to remain and to sell their aforesaid merchandise, and in this way have forestalled against the usage at this day practised in the king's dominion, and to the same extent by the mayor and commonalty aforesaid. And other irregular things, etc., to the no little injury of that mayor and that commonalty, and their manifest impoverishment, and against the peace, etc. And it was inquired whence it was that when certain merchants, with their ships and boats laden with the merchandise aforesaid, namely, Lambert Wolf, William son of John de Flyeneye, and John son of Brun, and various other merchants, directing their course towards the aforesaid port of Grymesby, and wishing to harbour there, to deal with the merchandise aforesaid, the aforesaid Walter and others, on the Monday next before the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary [8th September], in the first year of the reign of the present king [1273], arrested the aforesaid Lambert and others and compelled them to go to the town of Ravenserod, and to harbour and sell their merchandise there, and in this way have forestalled against the usage of the king's dominion, at this day observed by the same mayor and commonalty, whence they say that they have been deteriorated and have had injury done them to the amount of five thousand pounds, and herein they produce their suit, etc.

And the aforesaid Walter and others, by Robert de Cave their attorney come and defend, etc. And they say that they ought not to respond to this writ, because they say that in the aforesaid writ, or in the

narration of the aforesaid commonalty, there is not contained any fact which is done to the aforesaid commonalty of Grymesby against the peace of the king, not even by the forestalling of the aforesaid commonalty, and the impoverishment of the aforesaid town of Grymesby; whence they pray judgment on the aforesaid writ, etc.

And the aforesaid mayor and commonalty of Grymesby, by William de Hauden their attorney, say that the aforesaid writ, and also their narration, testify sufficiently to the transgression against the peace of the king done to them, whence they pray judgment, etc. And because it is stated in the writ that something in this way had been done against the peace of the king, and in the narration it is not stated that any injury was done to the aforesaid commonalty of Grymesby, except in this that they of Ravensere had forestalled the men of Grymesby by buying merchandise from merchants willing to harbour at the port of Grymesby, and in this way the narration extends only to forestalling and the impoverishment of the town of Grymesby, and not to a trespass done to the aforesaid commonalty of Grymesby against the king's peace, it is apparent that the aforesaid mayor and commonalty of Grymesby gain nothing by their writ, but are at the king's mercy for a false claim. And the aforesaid Walter son of Ralph and others therein *sine die*, etc."*

The triumph of the men of Ravenserodd was complete, and an uninterrupted though brief career of prosperity was before them.

In 21 Edward I., a charter was granted to the abbot of Meaux giving him the right of free warren in Ravense and 28 other places.†

In 24 Edward I. (1295-6), the Pipe Rolls mention 58 sacks and ten stones of Scotch wool, which were forfeited to the king at Ravenshere, and afterwards sent to Hull.‡

Mr. Frost prints an extract from the Pipe Roll of 25 Edward I. (1296-7), in which, under Ravensere, in the compotus of the executors of Thomas Normanville, bailiff of Holderness, account is rendered of 73s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., from the rents of the assize of the toll of the markets, nothing being received from the toll of the fair and the port in that place.§

In the same year we meet with the first grant of quayage to the town of Ravensere. Similar grants occur in 29 and 33 Edward I., 5 Edward II., 1, 4, 9, 14, 18 and 21 Edward III. From 1296-7 to 1330-1 these grants are for quayage for the town of Ravenser, but from 1335-6 to 1347-8 for the town of Ravensrode.¶ In 7 Edward III.

* Coram Rege Roll, Michaelmas term, 19 Ed. I. no. 180.

† *Calendarium Rotulorum Chartarum*, p. 122.

‡ Frost's *Notices*, p. 109, and App. p. 84.

§ Frost's *Notices*, pp. 54-5, n. z.

¶ *Calendarium Rotulorum Patentium*, pp. 58, 62, 65, 74, 99, 107, 128, 189, 147, 154.

(1333-4), the men of the town of Ravenesrode paid a fine of one mark for quayage in the said town for a period of three years. In 14 Edward III. (1340-1), they paid a similar fine. In 18 Edward III. (1344-5), they pay the same fine for quayage for four years. They again pay the same fine in 20 Edward III.*

We now approach the period of Ravenser's greatest prosperity, when, by royal charter, it became a free borough. In 1298, the king spent Christmas at Cottingham, in Baynard Castle, as the guest of lord John de Wake. During his stay there two petitions were presented to him, one from the people of Hull and one from the people of Ravenser. The petitions were presented by representative inhabitants of these places in person.† The people of Ravenserodd prayed that their town might be made a free borough, and that they might have the franchises which appertain to such a borough, so that the town might be guarded by a warden appointed by the king; that they might be able to devise their tenements in the said town when on their death-bed; that their warden might have return of writ, so that no high-sheriff or his bailiffs might interfere to exercise any office in the said town, except in the warden's default; that they should not implead nor be impleaded for their tenures, trespasses or contracts, except in the said town; that they might have a coroner by their election; that the coroner should be presented to the warden, and take oath before him, faithfully to perform his duties; that the king should have in the said town prison and gallows to punish offenders; that the warden should have infangthef and outfangthef; that the king should have a fair every year in the said town, beginning on the eve of the nativity of our Lady, and continuing for thirty days; and a market on two days of each week, namely, on Tuesday and Saturday; that they should be free of tonnage, pannage, passage, pavage, wallage and all other customs throughout England, as were the men of Scarborough; and that no person should enjoy the franchises aforesaid except the tenants of the said town.‡

The petitions were referred to the lord treasurer and the barons of the exchequer, who after due enquiry recommended the king to

* *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, vol. ii. pp. 81, 138, 169, 190.

† *Madox's History of the Exchequer*, c. 11. s. 2.

‡ *Ibid.*, c. 11.

grant the charters prayed for. It is singular that, whilst the fine which the inhabitants of Hull offered for their charter was only 100 marks, the people of Ravenserodd offered £300. The charter was granted on the 1st April in the following year (1299). As this document has never been printed I here give a translation of it.

“ Edward, by the grace of God king of England, lord of Ireland and duke of Aquitaine, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, provosts, ministers, and to all his bailiffs and faithful subjects, greeting. Be it known that, for the improvement of our town of Ravenserode, and for the utility and profit of our men of that town, we will and grant for us and our heirs, that our town aforesaid from henceforth shall be a free borough, and the men of the same town shall be free burgesses, and shall have for ever all the liberties and free customs belonging to a free borough. So that nevertheless that borough shall be kept by some faithful man, to be appointed thereto successively by us and our heirs, who shall first take corporal oath to the burgesses aforesaid, on the holy gospels of God, that he will preserve unhurt all the liberties granted by us to the same burgesses and borough, and faithfully and diligently do all those things which pertain to the office of warden in the borough aforesaid. We have granted also for us and our heirs, that the aforesaid burgesses and their heirs and successors may devise their lands and tenements, which they have within the same borough, or which they may have hereafter, by their last will, freely and without hindrance of us, or our heirs or our bailiffs whomsoever, to whomsoever they will. And that they shall have the return of all our writs in any manner relating to that borough. So that no sheriff or other bailiff or minister of ours shall enter that borough, to execute any office there for anything belonging to that borough, except in default of the same warden. And that they shall not implead or be impleaded elsewhere than within the same borough, before the aforesaid warden, concerning any tenures within that manor, or trespasses or contracts made within the same borough. And also that those burgesses and their heirs by writs of our chancery shall choose a coroner from among themselves, and present him to the said warden, before whom he shall make oath that he will faithfully do and preserve those things which pertain to the office of coroner in the said borough. And moreover we will and grant for us and our heirs, that a certain our prison shall be made and had in the same borough, for the punishment of malefactors there apprehended, and that gallows likewise shall be erected outside the borough aforesaid on our own proper soil. So that the aforesaid warden may execute judgment concerning infangthef and outfangthef. Moreover we will and grant for us and our heirs, that the said burgesses and their heirs shall be for ever quit, throughout all our kingdom and dominion, of toll, pontage, passage, pavage, and murage and of all other customs payable for their own goods and merchandise. And that all those of the borough aforesaid desiring to enjoy the liberties and free customs aforesaid shall be

taxed at geld and scot with the same burgesses, whenever it shall happen to that borough [to be taxed]. Moreover we grant, for us and our heirs, to the aforesaid burgesses, that they and their heirs shall have for ever two markets in every week within the borough aforesaid, to be held in a place appointed by us for that purpose, that is to say, one on Tuesday and the other on the Sunday, and one fair there in each year to continue for thirty days, that is to say, on the vigil, on the day and on the morrow of the Nativity of the blessed Mary, and for twenty-seven days next following ; unless those markets and that fair shall be to the injury of neighbouring markets and fairs. Wherefore we will and firmly command for us and our heirs that the aforesaid town shall from henceforth be a free borough, and the men of the same town shall be free burgesses, and shall have all the liberties and free customs belonging to a free borough for ever. So that nevertheless that borough shall be kept by some faithful man, successively chosen for that purpose by us and our heirs, who first shall take corporal oath to the burgesses aforesaid, on the holy gospels of God that he will preserve unhurt all the liberties granted by us to the same burgesses and borough, and shall faithfully and diligently do all those things which pertain to the office of warden in the borough aforesaid. And that the aforesaid burgesses and their heirs and successors may devise their lands and tenements which they have within the same borough, and which they shall have hereafter, in their last will, to whomsoever they will, freely and without hindrance of us or our heirs or bailiffs whomsoever. And that they shall have the return of all our writs in any manner relating to that borough. So that no sheriff or other bailiff or minister of ours shall enter that borough, to execute any office there, for anything pertaining to that borough, except in default of the same warden. And that they shall not implead or be impleaded elsewhere than within the same borough, before the warden aforesaid, concerning any tenures within that manor, or trespasses or contracts made within the same borough. And also that the same burgesses and their heirs, by writs of our chancery, shall choose a coroner from among themselves, and shall present him to the said warden, before whom he shall make oath that he will faithfully do and preserve those things which pertain to the office of coroner in the said borough. And that a certain our prison shall be made and had in the same borough, for the punishment of malefactors there apprehended, and gallows likewise erected outside the borough aforesaid on our own proper soil. So that the aforesaid warden may execute judgment of infangthef and outfangthef. And that the aforesaid burgesses and their heirs shall be for ever quit, throughout all our kingdom and dominion, of toll, pontage, passage, pavage and murage, and all other customs payable for their own proper goods and merchandise. And that all those of the borough aforesaid, desirous to enjoy the liberties and free customs aforesaid, shall be taxed at geld and scot with the same burgesses, whenever it shall happen to that borough [to be taxed]. And that the same burgesses and their heirs shall have forever the aforesaid markets and fair within the borough aforesaid, with all liberties and free customs pertaining to

these markets and fair ; except those markets and fair shall be to the injury of neighbouring markets and fairs, as is aforesaid. These are witnesses : The venerable father W. bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, Henry de Lacy earl of Lincoln, Henry de Percy, John Tregoz, Walter de Bello Campo steward of our household, Roger Brabazon, John de Metingham, Peter Mallore, Walter de Gloucester and others. Given by our hand at Westminster, the first day of April, in the twenty-seventh year of our reign [1299].”*

The Pipe Roll of 28 Edward I. (1299-1300), records that the burgesses and commonalty of the town of Ravenserhalt had paid £36 of the £300 which they owed as a fine for their charter of liberties. The remainder seems to have been a debt for three years after this, for it is not till 31 Edward I. (1302-3), that the sheriff records the payment of the balance of £264 of the same fine by the burgesses and commonalty of the town of Ravenserh.†

In 31 Edward I. (1302-3), an inquisition was held to ascertain if the king had any bailiwick in the warren of Ravenser, what the issues were worth, and if the king could grant the same without injury to others. The following is Poulson’s abstract of the record, which I have never seen :

“ The jurors say there is no bailiwick of the warren of Ravenser in the king’s hands, because there is not any warren. They say also that the king has two coningers, viz. one warren on the west, and one on the east, in Easington and Kilnsea, adjoining to *Old Ravenser-upon-Humber* ; with warren in the same in the hands of the king, which he may grant to others without injury to any one. The coninger on the west is worth 26s. per annum, or 6d. per week ; and the little coninger on the west [? east] is worth 13s. or 3d. per week, &c.”‡

In 1304, during Trinity term, the people of Ravenserodd were again involved in a suit in the court of the king’s bench. The abstract of the case, printed in the *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, mentions that the burgesses exhibited their charter, and refers to the suit between the men of Ravenserodd and the men of Grimsby in 1291, when judgment was given against Grimsby.§

In November 1304, the king, who was then at Burstwick, issued writs summoning a parliament to assemble at Westminster on the 16th of February following. The writ addressed to the high sheriff of

* Charter of Inspeximus, Charter Roll, 5 Ed. II., m. 8.

† Frost’s *Notices*, p. 57, notes d and e.

‡ Poulson’s *Holderness*, Vol. ii., p. 585.

§ *Placitorum in Domo Capitulari Westmonasteriensi Asservatorum Abbreviatio*, p. 251.

the county of York, which is dated 12th November 1304, required two knights to be elected for the shire, two citizens for each city, and two burgesses for each borough in the county. The return, which is endorsed on the back of the writ, records the appointment of knights for the county, of citizens for York itself, and of two burgesses each for Ravenser, Kingston upon Hull, Scarborough and Beverley. The representatives returned by Ravenser were Peter atte See de Ravenser, whose manucaptors were Walter de Cabhorn and John atte See, and William Pailleleve, whose manucaptors were William Balli, and William del Hulle. The same parliament again assembled by prorogation on the 28th February in the same year.*

After this Ravenser does not appear to have returned members to any parliament till that which assembled at Westminster on the 14th December 1326, when Thomas le Taverner and John Wyt were returned. Taverner's manucaptors were Geoffry Campion and Peter de Welwyk. Those of Wyt are not recorded.† The writs of parliament after the reign of Edward II. have not been printed; but Brown Willis states that in the second parliament of Edward III. Ravenser was again represented by Taverner and Wyt.

In 1327, Ravenser was represented by John, son of John atte See, and Gilbert (?) le Chuffour, both of Ravenser.‡

In the early part of the fourteenth century the merchants of Ravenser suffered from the depredations of Dutch pirates, as, it would appear, did also the merchants of Holland from the depredations of English pirates. At a parliament held at Stamford early in the reign of Edward II., at which the earl of Holland was represented by one Christian de Paphurst and others, this mutual privateering was a subject of serious consideration, and it was agreed that the ruling powers in each country should appoint special justices, to hear and redress the grievances of those who had been robbed. The Ravenser merchants had complained to Edward I., and he had directed "his special letters" to the earl of Holland, asking for redress, but without avail. After a time the merchants appealed to the new king, Edward II. He addressed a remonstrance to the earl of Zetland,

* *Parliamentary Writs*, i. p. 143. n. 17.

† *Ibid.* ii., p. 857, n. 30.

‡ Park's *Parliamentary Representation of Yorkshire*, p. 268.

dated, 14th January, 1310, in which, after referring to the compact for mutual redress, he applies for a final remedy, on behalf of

“Peter Attesee and John his son, Walter de Cakhowe, John de Bradele, Thomas de Stamelmere, Richard Trunk, and John Trenthemer, our burgesses and merchants of Ravenesere,

“Who lately, by certain men of your dominions were robbed of their goods and merchandise, to the amount of £461 14s. 8d. as with grievous complaint they have shown unto us.”*

We now come to a period of English history in the events of which Ravenser played a not unimportant part. I refer to the protracted struggle between Edward II. of England, and Robert Brus of Scotland. When in the summer of 1310, Edward determined to make his first invasion of Scotland, he issued injunctions to the maritime towns of England to furnish him with a fleet, numbering in all 48 ships, which were to be equipped and sent to Dublin at latest by the octaves of the assumption of our Lady (15th August), to be ready to carry a body of forces from there to Scotland. Ravensere was required to furnish one war-ship (*une nef de guere*), well equipped with sufficient and defensible men, and well furnished with other necessary things.† On the second of the following August the king issued orders to the bailiffs of the various ports, that the ships, instead of sailing to Dublin, should proceed directly to the parts of Scotland to which they were to have carried the Irish troops, there to join with John of Argyle and others of the king's subjects, whom they were to meet at sea, in order to attack the king's enemies at such places and times as they should find most convenient.‡

Early in 1314, Edward prepared to make another expedition to Scotland, and on the 12th March addressed writs to the bailiffs of 28 English ports, and to those of Raveneserod amongst the rest, requiring them to make public proclamation in their town, on the king's behalf, that all persons, both merchants and others, who had corn or other victuals or armour which they wished to sell, to bring or cause these things to be brought to the parts of Scotland where his army might be, and there offer them for sale. They were also to take security from merchants and others, leaving their port with corn,

* *Rymers Fœdera*, iii., p. 198; and translation in Thompson's *Ocellum Promontorium*, p. 157.

† *Rotuli Scotiæ*, vol. i., p. 88.

‡ *Ibid* i., p.

victuals or armour, that they would actually take these things to the king's army, and not elsewhere.*

Two months later, on the 9th May, the king issued similar writs. The bailiffs of Ravenserod were commanded to make proclamation in their town that no merchants or others, under heavy penalties, should send any victuals from their port to Flanders or elsewhere, except to the king's army, during the expedition against Scotland.†

After his defeat at the battle of Bannockburn, Edward retired to York, whence on the 25th July, he issued mandates to 22 English ports, each of which was required to fit out one or more ships for another expedition against Scotland. The bailiffs and true men of Ravensere were to furnish one ship with sufficient defensible sailors, capable of bearing arms, and with other necessities.‡

Early in the following year the king prepared once more to invade Scotland. At this time there was great dearth of provisions of all kinds in England, but far greater scarcity in Scotland. Squadrons of ships were employed both on the east and west coasts of our island, to prevent any supplies being conveyed to the Scots. On 5th January (1315), the king issued mandates to the mayors or bailiffs of various ports, and, amongst the rest, to the bailiffs of Ravenesherod, requiring them to make proclamation that no merchant, sailor or other person should, under the severest penalties the king could impose, take, send, or in any way convey to the Scots either corn, flesh, or any other kind of victuals or armour.§

At Midsummer the king was at Berwick, whence he issued a summons to his barons to be at Newcastle on the 15th August, attended by their military retinue, to accompany him in another invasion of Scotland. On the 12th of the latter month the king issued a writ to the bailiffs of Ravenserod and of other ports, requiring them to make public proclamation that all merchants and others who had victuals or other things necessary for the sustenance of the king's forces, should without delay proceed to the northern parts, carrying with them such victuals and other necessities. Such merchants were

* *Ibid*, i., p. 116.

† *Ibid*, i., p. 126.

‡ *Ibid*, i., p. 129.

§ *Ibid*, i., p. 136.

to take oath and find surety that they would actually proceed to the said northern parts with their victuals, and not turn aside to other places, nor sell them to the king's enemies, or have any kind of dealings with them.*

On the 6th November 1319, the king addressed commissions to various persons in the liberties and wapentakes of Yorkshire, empowering them to raise an army to repel the Scots. The commission for the liberty of Raveneserod was addressed to Alexander Cok and John atte See, and required that

"Everyone [in that liberty], between the ages of twenty and sixty, having forty shillings worth of land, or chattels of the value of sixty shillings, should have, under the penalties mentioned below, an acketon, a bascinet, and gloves of plate, or more, sufficient for defence, for one man on foot.

"And everyone having a hundred shillings worth of land, or chattels to the value of ten marks, should have a horse, an acketon, a hauberk, a bascinet and gloves of plate sufficient for a hobbler.

"And everyone having ten pounds worth of land, or chattels to the value of twenty pounds, should have equipments and armour as a man at arms."

Such persons were to furnish themselves with the armour named before the approaching Christmas. They who neglected to do this were, for a first offence, to forfeit a third part of all their goods; for a second offence, the whole remainder of their goods; and after a third, their persons were to be at the king's disposal.†

In the spring of 1321, a Scotch ship was driven into the harbour at Ravenser by stress of weather. There it was seized, with its crew and cargo, by the Ravenser people. Such an arrest was, however, in violation of the terms of a truce which had recently been concluded between England and Scotland. In consequence of such violation a royal letter was addressed to the bailiffs of Ravenesrodde, in which the king says,

"We admonish you that Ivo de Hadyngton and other Scotch men, recently passing along the coast of the sea in a certain ship, with their goods and merchandise, and driven upon the land at Ravenesrodd by the fury of the same sea, and arrested by you, together with their goods and merchandise, found in the aforesaid ship,

"If it shall appear to you that the said Ivo and the other men, with the goods and merchandise aforesaid, are of Scotland, and have been driven

* *Ibid*, i., p. 149.

† *Ibid* i., p. 204.

to the said place by the fury of the sea, as has been said, you shall cause them to be liberated and disarrested without delay, according to the tenor of the truce aforesaid.”*

Dealings with the Scots, of a more amicable character were going on at the same time at Ravenser. The nature of these dealings, and the consequences by which they were attended, will be best gathered from the following translation of a letter addressed by archbishop Melton to the parish priest of Ravenserhod :

“ William, etc., to his beloved son the parish priest of Ravenserhod, [sends] health, grace and benediction. Simon le Chandler and Clement called ‘ End de Depe,’ coming before us, have intimated to us that formerly it was permitted them to hold communication with the Scots, but that our parishioners, amongst whom they now dwell, regard them as excommunicated persons on account of such communication, and for this reason they endeavour to shun them, and refuse to sell them victuals and other necessities ; [wherefore] they have humbly desired from us some benefit of absolution, so that they may be secure of the intercourse of our parishioners, that they may deem them worthy to be dealt with. We, approving of their just petition, have absolved them to the extent of the security [desired]. We therefore command thee that they may be publicly announced to be absolved to this extent by our authority. Farewell. Given at Cawode the fifth of the ides of May [11th May], in the year of grace, 1321, and of our pontificate, the fourth.”

Immediately following the above letter in the archbishop’s register is the following :

“ Memorandum, that on the same day and at the same place Richard de Donecastre and Juliana his wife, [both] of Ravenserhod, were absolved for the same kind of communication.”†

In 15 Edward II., a royal mandate was addressed to the bailiffs and true men of the town of Ravensrode calling upon them to furnish a ship for an expedition against Scotland, with thirty of the stoutest and strongest men of the town, with armour, victuals and other necessities, and to cause the same to be at Tynmuthe on the eve of St. James the Apostle, next ensuing.‡ A demand seems to have been made, about the same time, on the people of Ravenser, to furnish men for the army. They, however, naturally felt it to be a sufficient tax on their resources to have to furnish and man a vessel ; and therefore appealed to parliament to be released from the latter order.

* Rymer’s *Fœdera*, iii., p. 879.

† *Letters from Northern Registers*, p. 309.

‡ Thompson’s *Ocellum Promontorium*, p. 205.

Their petition is recorded in the rolls of parliament in the following terms :

“To our lord the king and his council, his burgesses of his towns of Ravenserod and Grimmesbi, which are ports on the sea, pray that, as they are charged by the command of our lord the king to find two ships and two barges, with double equipment, at their own cost, for 40 days, the which are ready furnished to go on the sea, that he will please of his grace to grant to the said burgesses, that they may be discharged from going by land, on account of the great peril which would come to the said towns because of the enemies of the king who are on the sea.”

The parliament's response was that,

“It pleases our lord the king that those who are appointed to go upon the sea, shall go in as good force as they can, according to what the good men have promised the king. And as to the rest the king wishes that they shall do as other people do.”*

On the 10th May 1324, the king addressed a letter to the bailiffs of Ravenesere, requiring them to cause all the ships of their port, carrying 40 tuns of wine or more, to be prepared without delay, and furnished with men and other necessities, so as to be ready at three days' notice to depart on the king's service. No ships of such burden were to be permitted to go to sea from this port, and all such ships which were then abroad, on their return, were to be retained and prepared in the aforesaid manner. The bailiffs were to inform the king of the number of such ships then in port, and of the number belonging to the port which were then at sea.†

In 20 Edward II. (1326), a writ was addressed to the bailiffs and commonalty of the town of Ravensrod, authorizing them to search for and arrest suspected persons.‡

The reign of Edward III. was early characterized by a renewal of hostilities between England and Scotland. On the 6th May, 1327, a mandate was addressed to the bailiffs and true men of Ravenser, commanding them to elect from the ships of the aforesaid town two good and sufficient ships, carrying a burden of 60 tons or more, and to furnish them with defensible men, arms, victuals and other necessities, under a double equipment, to be ready on the Monday next after the feast of the Ascension, for an expedition against Scotland, should

* *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, i., 405.

† Thompson's *Ocellum Promontorium* p. 206.

‡ Poulson's *Holderness*. ii., 581.

such expedition be rendered necessary by the action of the Scots.* As showing the relative importance of Ravenser at this time, I may mention that, whilst this port was required to furnish two ships, Wayne-flet, Grymesby, Scardeburgh and Whiteby were only called upon to furnish one each.

In 1332, a number of English lords and nobles who claimed large estates beyond the border, formed the design of restoring the crown of Scotland to Edward Baliol, who from the time of his father's death had lived in retirement at Quimper in France. He was induced to come to England, where a small army, consisting, according to Hollinshed, of not more than 500 men at arms and about 2000 archers, was gathered in his support. With this force, and assisted by lords Beaumont, Wake, Mowbray and others, Baliol embarked at Ravenser in the summer of 1332. They entered the Firth of Forth on the last day of July, and on the 6th August landed at Kinghorn, where they routed a body of Scots who opposed their landing. This victory was followed by a series of others, and Baliol was crowned at Scone.†

On the 11th April 1333, an order was addressed to the people of Ravenserodd, calling upon them to furnish a ship for an expedition to Scotland. The document is of so singular and interesting a character that I need make no apology for translating it *in extenso*.

“The king to the bailiffs and true men of the town of Ravenserodd, greeting. Whereas lately we commanded you that you should cause a ship of war in the port of the town aforesaid of the greater and stronger ships of the same town to be provided and prepared, and that ship to be furnished as well with capable and strong men and well and sufficiently armed, as with other necessities which might be required ; so that that ship so furnished with men and other necessities, should be ready and prepared on Wednesday in Easter week last part at the latest, then to depart thence at our charges to the parts of Scotland for our expedition of war thither. And you afterwards, in consideration of an abatement which we made to you of one hobbler and six archers to which you had been assessed by the commissioners appointed by us for the array of men in the East Riding of the county of York, granted to us one ship of war, namely, the better [ship] of the same town, for the setting out of our expedition aforesaid, and we commanded William de Ferby of Ravenserodd that he should cause for the reason aforesaid, to come to the said port of Ravenserodd his ship called the Saynte Marie, a cogge of Ravenserodd which is reputed to be

* *Rotuli Scotiae*, i., p. 209.

† *Hollinshed*, 1806, ii., 600; *Ridpath's Border History* (ed. of 1810), pp. 294-299.

the better ship of the said town, and the same William now coming to us, has declared that his said ship was previously sent to foreign parts, and concerning its return he was altogether ignorant. We, therefore, strictly command and enjoin you that you cause the better ship of the town aforesaid, to be provided and prepared for war, and furnished with sailors and other capable and strong men, and well and sufficiently armed, and with other necessities, to set out with all the speed which can be made in our expedition aforesaid, at our charge, towards the parts of Scotland aforesaid. And this ye shall in no wise omit as ye regard us and our honour, and wish to save yourselves harmless. Witnessed by the king at Durham, 11th day of April [1333]. By the king himself.”*

On the 16th June, 1333, the king issued writs to the bailiffs of Ravenesere and other places, commanding that all ships of a burden carrying 50 tuns of wine or more then in that port should be detained, and that all ships of such burden belonging to that port as should then be abroad should be secured, in order that such ships should be compelled to return to that port with all possible speed, and that all these ships should be prepared and furnished without delay with a double equipment, and other things and necessities required for war, so that they might be ready and prepared for the defence of the kingdom against the Scots.† On the 16th August, writs were issued to the same places, relaxing the former order, and ordering their respective mayors or bailiffs to permit the masters and sailors of such detained ships to go to sea with their vessels, “to make their profits with the same.”‡

On the 20th September, 1334, the king issued a very curious writ to the mayors, bailiffs and true men of Newcastle on Tyne, Hertilpol, Kyngeston on Hull and Raveneserod. It asserts that many Scots and others pass daily from various foreign places to Scotland, carrying victuals and armour, and also intercepting certain mariners, whom the king had appointed to carry various kinds of victuals to his beloved and faithful subjects, Henry de Beaumont, earl of Boughan, and David de Strabolgi, earl of Athol. For this reason Robert Stut was appointed to select, with the oversight of “our beloved clerk” James de Kyngeston, certain ships of war of the towns aforesaid, namely, two ships of Newcastle, two of Hertil-

* *Rotuli Scotiæ*, i., p. 228.

† *Ibid*, i., p. 248.

‡ *Ibid*, i., p. 258.

pol, two of Kyngeston and one of Raveneserod, of the greater and better ships of the said towns, and also to select so many mariners and others from the aforesaid towns as should be necessary for the furnishing of those ships, and to place the same mariners in those ships, that they might proceed thence to sea in the king's service and at his cost. The ships thus selected and manned were to take and arrest such of the king's enemies as they should chance to find on the sea, together with the victuals and armour found with them, and also to conduct the first named mariners towards the parts aforesaid with the victuals above mentioned. *

On the 24th December, in the same year (1334), a writ was addressed by the king to the bailiffs of Ravensere, and also to many other places, commanding that all ships carrying a burden of 50 tuns of wine or more, then in that port, should be detained, and that all ships of such burden belonging to that port, as should then be abroad, should return with all possible speed, and all such ships should be prepared and furnished with a double equipment for war. The number of such ships both at home and abroad was to be certified to the king.†

The first part of the above writ seems to have been generally understood to apply to all ships whatever, of the burden named, which might be at the time in the ports to which the writs were sent. In consequence of this interpretation of the document many foreign vessels were seized and detained. Their owners or masters thereupon appealed to the king, with the result that on 12th January following (1335), a second writ was sent to the same places, commanding that all such foreign ships should be at once disarrested and permitted without hindrance to proceed wherever they would, "so that a complaint herein may not come to us again."‡

In consequence of the continued aggressions of the Scots, a royal writ was issued on the 1st February 1335, authorizing James de Kyngeston and John Crabbe to select ten ships of war, one of which was to be supplied by Ravensere, and to select a thousand men, as well mariners as archers and others, who shall be considered

* *Ibid.*, i., p. 279.

† *Ibid.*, i., p. 809.

‡ *Ibid.*, i., p. 811.

necessary for the furnishing of those ships, and to place 100 of these men in each ship, with victuals and other things necessary for war, and to cause these ships to be taken to Newcastle on Tyne, by the 1st day of March next ensuing.*

On the 22nd February, 1335, the king issued writs relaxing those dated the 24th of the preceding December. In most cases the relaxation was complete, but in others, Ravensere amongst the number, it was only partial. The previous writ commanded the detention for the king's service of all ships belonging to the ports addressed. The present writ instructs the bailiffs of Ravensere to disarrest all ships so detained, except one, and to permit their masters and mariners to proceed by sea wherever they wished.†

A royal writ was issued on the 6th March, 1335, empowering John de Hyldesle, chancellor of the king's exchequer, and William de la Pole, jointly or separately, to select three ships in the ports of Kyngeston upon Hull, Ravensere, and other ports and places in that part of the coast, of the greater and stronger ships of those places, and as many men, as well mariners as others, of the better and stronger men whom they could find, as well within those liberties as without, as might suffice for the furnishing of the same ships for the king's service, to do what the masters of those ships should be commanded to do by the aforesaid William on the king's part.‡

In 1336 the king of France, who had adopted the cause of David Brus of Scotland, threatened England with invasion. On this account, on the 3rd October, royal writs were issued to the bailiffs of Ravensere and other places, commanding that all defensible men in that liberty without delay should be arrayed and prepared with arms, so that they, well arrayed and sufficiently furnished with competent arms, might be ready and prepared for the defence of the town aforesaid and of the kingdom itself in those parts, in order to repel the malice of the king's enemies, if they should presume in a hostile manner to approach that kingdom in those parts.§

The same apprehension of invasion led to the issue of a writ

* Ibid, i., p. 817.

† Ibid, i., p. 324.

‡ Ibid, i., p. 326.

§ Ibid, i., p. 468.

which was sent on the 6th November, 1336, to the mayors or bailiffs of 63 ports on the coasts of England, and, amongst the rest, to the bailiffs of the town of Ravenesre. The great length of the document debars me from giving a full translation of it. The king mentions the preparations for invasion which an alien nation is making, and that he had recently forbidden English ships from going to sea except in defence of the kingdom. Notwithstanding this many ships had gone to Spain and other places, some of which had been seized on their outward or homeward voyage by that alien nation, who killed the seamen. Wherefore it was ordained and agreed by the king and his council, that all ships, belonging to ports and places north of the mouth of the Thames, which were seaworthy, without delay should be well and sufficiently furnished with men, arms and other necessities, and so furnished should congregate in the port of Orewell on the morrow of St. Andrew next ensuing [Dec. 1] at latest, so that some ships so congregated might go to and return from Spain and other foreign parts for wine and other merchandise in large fleets; and that other ships, for the safety of the aforesaid ships and the preservation of the king's honour and the good of his kingdom, and also to defeat and repel the malice of the said alien nation, should go with them for their safe conduct.*

On the 13th December, the bailiffs of Ravenesere were commanded to appoint three or four of the more discreet and true men of their town, to attend a council at Norwich on the Friday next after the feast of the Circumcision, to consult on the affairs of the nation.†

A royal writ was issued to the bailiffs of Ravenserod on the 5th October, 1336, which I think of sufficient interest to be translated without abridgement.

“The king to the bailiffs of the town of Ravenserod, greeting.

“Because certain merchants and others of our kingdom, now in the parts of Flanders, have been taken and arrested in those parts of Flanders, together with their merchandise, things and goods whatsoever there found in their possession, by the earl of Flanders, and the burgomasters, town sheriffs (scabinos) and consuls of the towns of that land, —as we are certainly informed, although no injury has been

* *Ibid.*, i., p. 467.

† *Ibid.*, i., p. 474-5.

previously done nor any cause given to the aforesaid earl, or to the people of Flanders, by us or our subjects,

“We,

Inwardly weighing such contempt, so done to us, and the losses which the same merchants by that occasion are compelled to bear,

“And desiring to put forth our hand against such evil doing,

“Command and firmly enjoin you, forthwith, at the sight of these presents, without delay, to arrest all men of Flanders, as well merchants as others, wherever they be found in your bailiwick, whether within its liberties or beyond them, together with their ships, merchandise, goods, and chattels whatsoever, found in the same bailiwick, or which shall happen to be brought thither hereafter, and them, and their goods aforesaid, to detain under safe and secure custody, without distraction of their goods, until such time as we shall cause anything to be demanded thereof ;

“Making without delay, by yourselves and some true men of the place where those Flemings and their goods shall happen to be seized, indentures, containing the names of the aforesaid Flemings, and of their goods which you caused to be so seized, and what they were, and in what way these things were done, and their value ; and sending to our treasury transcripts of those indentures, when they are made, from time to time, under your seal ;

“And this do, omitting nothing, as you would save yourselves harmless.

“Witnessed by the king at Aucland, the 5th day of October [1336].” *

On the 10th January 1337, the king, who was again engaged in hostilities with Scotland, issued writs to many English ports, demanding the service of their ships. The writ addressed to the true men of the town of Raveneser, demanded that such ships as should be chosen by William de Ros and James de Kyngeston, should be furnished with men, as well mariners as others, well and sufficiently armed, that is to say, with a double equipment, and other necessities sufficient for war, besides victuals for thirteen weeks.†

In 11 Edward III. (1337-8), a royal mandate was issued to John de Molyns, Hugh de Berwyk and William le Lount to enquire concerning a certain ship seized at Ravenessere.‡ It was possibly in consequence of this enquiry that in the same year a further writ was issued to John de Stonore, John de Molgul, Nicholas de Bolkland, Hugh de Berewick, and William Langleys, setting forth that certain malefactors and disturbers of the peace had taken

* Rymer's *Fœdera*, iv., p. 711.

† *Rotuli Scotiæ*, i., p. 477-8.

‡ *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio* ii., p. 120.

and carried away certain goods and chattels of the king's enemies, the Scots, of no little value, from a vessel lying at Ravensrodde, and had detained, and did then detain them, to the contempt of the king, and his great injury. The persons above-named were to enquire who these malefactors were, who so took away these goods, and to ascertain their price and value, and where the goods were secreted, and to cause all the parties to be arrested, and to return the writ under their seals, specifying particulars, into chancery.*

On the 28th July, 1338, the king granted a safe conduct to a merchant of Ravenser, of whom we shall hear again, to enable him to carry victuals to English people dwelling in Scotland. Although the document is translated by Thompson, its interest is too great to allow its being omitted here.

“The king to all and singular, the admirals, bailiffs, ministers, and all other his faithful subjects, as well within his liberties as without, to whom, etc., greeting. Know ye that whereas our beloved Robert Rotenheryng proposes to load a certain ship, called the Radegunde of Ravensere, with various kinds of corn and other victuals in the port of Ravensere, and to carry them to the parts of Scotland, as far as the town of St. John of Perth, and our castles of Coupre in Fyf, Stryvelyn and Edenburgh, to sell them there for the sustenance of our faithful subjects occupied in defence of the town and castles aforesaid; we have taken under our protection and defence the same Robert, and his men and servants, and the mariners of the ship aforesaid, in going with the ship with the grain and victuals aforesaid, to the parts aforesaid, remaining there, and returning thence. And therefore we command you, that you do not inflict, or so far as in you lies, permit to be inflicted by others, any injury, molestation, damage, hindrance or any other grievance upon the same Robert, or his men and servants or the mariners aforesaid, in going with the ship, corn, and victuals aforesaid, to the parts aforesaid, remaining there, and returning thence, as is aforesaid. And if anything has been seized from them, that you cause it to be restored to them without delay. For we will not that any of the grain or victuals aforesaid should be taken for our use or that of others, by our bailiffs or ministers, or any other person whatsoever. So nevertheless that that Robert shall find sufficient security to the bailiffs of the said town of Ravensere that he will carry the aforesaid victuals to the said town of St. John and the castles of Coupre, Stryvelyn and Edenburgh and not elsewhere, and that he will in no way communicate of the same with the Scots, our enemies and rebels; and that he will bring back the letters patent of the keeper and constables of the town and castles aforesaid, testifying the same Robert to have sold the corn and victuals aforesaid to the men

* Poulson's *Holderness* ii. p. 532.

employed in the defences aforesaid, and not elsewhere. In which, etc., to continue for one year.

“Witnessed by the above mentioned keeper at Northampton, the 28th day of July [1338].

By the keeper himself and council.” *

In the following year we have another grant of safe conduct which is scarcely of less interest than the last, and which, as containing the names of Hull and Ravenser vessels and their masters, is perhaps equally worthy of a place here.

“The king to all and singular the sheriffs, mayors, bailiffs, ministers and other faithful subjects, as well within his liberties as without, to whom, etc., greeting. Know ye that whereas our beloved and faithful Thomas de Rokeby, keeper of our castles of Stryvelyn and Edeneburgh in Scotland, has freighted at Kyngeston upon Hull and Ravenesere three ships called the Eleyne of Ravenesere, the Laurence of Hull, and the Michel of Hull, of which John Kelyng, Richard de Birkyng, and John le Vanne are masters, to carry victuals and other things for the sustenance of the said Thomas; and the aforesaid Thomas having petitioned us [saying] that when the aforesaid victuals were sent to the places aforesaid, they were retarded by arrestings and detentions of the said ships hitherto often made and done by certain of our ministers and others pretending to have this power, to our serious injury and the manifest danger of our said faithful subjects and of those castles, we will herein to appoint suitable remedy. We, desiring to prevent danger of this kind, and to provide for the security of the aforesaid ships, which our enemies of Scotland and others with ships of war are on the alert to take and to destroy, as it may chance, will and ordain, with the advice of our council, that the said four [*sic*] ships shall set out at one time, sufficiently furnished both with armed men and other necessities, as well to carry a larger quantity of victuals and other things to the said castle for the reason aforesaid, as for the safety and security of those ships against the attacks of our enemies. And therefore we command you that you will not inflict, or, so far as in you lies, permit to be inflicted, any injury, etc., or damage, on the aforesaid masters or mariners or other men, victuals or other things, existing in the ships aforesaid, which, together with the said ships, we have taken into our protection and defence, and also into our safe and secure conduct, in going to the parts aforesaid, remaining there and returning thence, but that you will permit the said masters and mariners, with the aforesaid ships, victuals and other things, to direct their course to the said parts and to return thence without any hindrance; although, nevertheless, the said ships were not appointed and prepared for our fleet of ships of admiralty [proceeding] towards the northern parts in the charge of the lieutenants of the admiral. In which, etc., to continue to the feast of St. Michael next ensuing [29 September].

* *Rotuli Scotiae*, i., p. 589.

"Witnessed by the keeper aforesaid at Berkampsted, the 2nd day of June [1339]."*

The part played by Ravenser in the relations between England and Scotland, during the reigns of the second and third Edwards, ends here. In order to keep together all the mandates and writs relating to these affairs, which were addressed or in any way referred to the people of Ravenser, I have passed over some events in the general history of this place to which we must now return.

In 1312, the burgesses of Ravenesrodd procured a confirmation of their charter from Edward II. The charter of inspeximus is dated at York the 6th March, 1312.† The exchequer rolls mention that the burgesses of Ravenesrod in this year paid a fine of £50 to the king for the confirmation of their charter, and for quayage for seven years.‡

In the *Nomina Villarum* for Yorkshire, compiled in 9 Edward II. (1315-16), the liberty of Ravenser and the borough of Ravenser Odd are enumerated, "of which the king is lord." §

In 19 Edward II., the king appointed Richard de la Pole and "magister" John de Barton to collect prisages and customs in the ports of Kyngeston upon Hull and Ravenserod. In subsequent appointments the "customs of wool" are especially named. So far as I have been able to collect the names of such collectors, I have included them in the following list.

19 Ed. II. Richard de la Pole and John de Barton.

4 Ed. III. Adam de Coppendale and Hugh le Taverner.

5 Ed. III. Hugh le Taverner and Henry de Barton.

6 Ed. III. John de Barton and Henry de Barton.

" " " Richard Fitz Dien and John de Barton.¶

In 4 Edward III. (1330), a petition was addressed to parliament by the citizens of York, setting forth that by their ancient charters they were entitled to tolls and customs on all the goods and merchandise brought to their city, but that in defiance of these rights the people of Hull, Ravenser, and other towns, who had formerly paid these

* *Ibid.*, i., p. 568.

† *Charter Roll*, 5 Ed. II., m. 8.

‡ *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, i., p. 191.

§ *Surtees Society*, xlix., p. 306.

¶ *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, i., p. 291; ii., pp. 40, 54, 68, 66.

dues, now claim to be free and quit of them, producing writs from the king of acquittance of such tolls and customs by reason of the franchises which they had purchased. The citizens of York assert that they are sufferers by these means to the amount of £60 a year.*

In 7 Edward III. (1333-4), the burgesses of Ravenserod again procured a confirmation of their charter, for which they paid a fine of five marks.†

In 1341 and 1344, Ravensere sent one representative to a naval parliament. In 1346, immediately after the battle of Cressy, when the king laid siege to Cressy, the various ports of England furnished about 700 ships and 14,000 men for the expedition. As showing the relative importance of Ravenser at that time, it may be stated that whilst Hull furnished 16 ships and 466 mariners, Grimsby 11 ships and 171 mariners, and Barton 3 ships and 30 mariners, Ravenser furnished but one ship and 28 mariners.‡

We now approach the period of Ravenserodd's destruction. The story is a sad one. The chronicler of Meaux tells us much about it, and some of his narrations are extremely graphic. Before introducing his relations, however, I will translate the record of an inquisition, held in 1346, to ascertain the nature and extent of the destruction of this place. The writ appointing the inquisitors is dated at Westminster, the 18th May, 1346, and the inquisition itself was held about three months afterwards.

“Inquisition taken at Ravenserod on Thursday in the feast of St. Laurence the martyr, in the 20th year of the reign of king Edward the third after the conquest, before Nicholas Gower, Amandus de Frothyng-ham, and Peter de Grimsby, appointed by the commission of the lord the king to enquire concerning the impoverishment and destruction of the town of Ravenserod in Holdernes, in the county of York, by the flowing of the water of the sea often inundating the said town, and concerning all other circumstances, by the oath of Galfrid de Redmar, Hugh de Hoton, Thomas de St. Martin, Stephen de Newton, John de Northorp, John Rolland, Roger Rolland, Nicholas de Thorn, Peter Percy, William Buk, Walter . . . ese, and William son of Hugh de Hoton, jurors; Who say upon their oath that two parts of the tenements and soil of the said town and more, by the flowing of the water of the sea often inundating the said

* *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, ii., p. 51.

† *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, ii., p. 81.

‡ Rymer's *Foedera*, v., pp. 281, 405; and Macpherson's *History of Commerce*, i., pp. 528, 534.

town, have been thrown down and carried away, and the said town by the flowing of the water aforesaid has been daily diminished and carried away. And they say that many men of the said town, who were accustomed before this time to bear the burdens contingent to the said town, have withdrawn themselves with their goods and chattels from the town aforesaid, because of such daily increasing dangers there, making an abode elsewhere. So that there does not remain there a third part of the men of the town aforesaid, with their goods, who are able at the present time in any way to bear the burdens in this way contingent to the said town, nor sufficient to pay or support the tithes, tolls and other burdens hitherto assessed upon the said town, and due to be raised there. In witness of which the said jurors have fixed their seals to this inquisition." *

Another inquisition of similar character was shortly afterwards held, the record of which, unfortunately, I have not been able to find. But its substance may be gathered from a writ addressed in 21 Edward III. (1347-8), to the collectors of taxes in the East Riding, of which the following is an abstract.

"The king to the collectors of taxes, etc. Whereas recently we have learned by an inquisition taken at Ravenserod that the town has been daily diminished by the frequent inundations of the water of the sea surrounding the said town, and the soil thereof in great quantity has been carried away; and that 145 buildings which belonged to Cecily de Selby, and very many which belonged to others, and forty two places not built upon which belonged to Thomas Galt and to others specified in the said inquisition, which said buildings and places constituted two parts and more of the aforesaid town, have been taken into the sea by such inundations, and the flux of the said water, from the 8th year of the reign of the king of England even to the day of the taking of the said inquisition; and that the persons who were accustomed to have and hold the said buildings and places, and to dwell in them, and thereof to bear the burdens attached to the same, have withdrawn themselves from that town by reason of such waste and the impoverishment thence arising; and that the persons now dwelling there are so impoverished that they are not able in any way to support and pay the tenths, tolls, taxations, etc. It is commanded that 100 shillings be accepted from the said inhabitants, for the said tenths, etc." †

We must now turn to the Meaux Chronicle for information as to the destruction of the Ravensers. During the abbacy of Hugh of Leven, from 1339 to 1349, the church of Easington, as I shall again have occasion to mention, was appropriated to the abbey of Meaux. This was accomplished during the government of abbot Hugh. The

* *Inquisitiones ad quod Damnum*, 20 Ed. III., no. 28.

† *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, ii., p. 188.

chronicler, after relating this circumstance, with all its details, proceeds,

“ Within a short time after the appropriation aforesaid, that town of Ravenserodd, in which at first we had half an acre of land decently built upon, which town was recognised as a borough, and which was worth yearly to its mother church of Esyngton 50*l.*, which were included as it were in the 40*l.* to which the church of Esyngton was increased, by the inundations of the sea and of the Humber, was completely blotted out and consumed.” *

The town was being washed away, and its desolate shore afforded a suitable sphere of action for robbers and marauders. Amongst the petitions addressed to Parliament in 1347 or 1348, is one from William de Lithenay, merchant. He prays that a commission may be appointed to take the bodies, goods, and chattels of malefactors and robbers, who had fearfully robbed the said William, at the coast of Ravensrod, of his merchandise, which amounted to £186 13*s.* 4*d.* in esterlings; and also to take the goods and chattels of their maintainers and receivers; that is to say, the inhabitants of the towns of Lubeck, Griefswald, Rostock, Wissemmer, and Stralsund, who, together with the said malefactors and robbers, took the body of the said William, and carried him to Stralsund, and there put him in prison for a long time, against the peace, and to the great injury of the said William.†

The chronicler of Meaux, in the course of his account of the abbacy of Robert of Beverley, who governed the house from 1356 to 1367, devotes a whole chapter to the affairs of Ravenserodd. This chapter is headed,

“ *Concerning the consumption of the town of Ravensere Odd, and concerning the effort towards the diminution of the tax of the church of Esyngton.*”

Of the first portion of this chapter, the following is a translation :

“ But in those days, the whole town of Ravensere Odd, in the parish of the said church of Esyngton, from the inhabitants and dwellers whereof the greatest part of the profits of the church of Esyngton used to arise, was totally annihilated by the floods of the Humber and the inundations of the great sea; and, by this cause, the tithes, fruits, rents, and profits of the said church of Esyngton were diminished to the amount of 50 pounds sterling in each year. And, when that town of Ravensere Odd, in which we had half an acre of land built upon,

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 16.

† *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, ii., p. 207.

and also the chapel of that town, pertaining to the said church of Esyngton, were exposed to demolition during the few preceding years, those floods and inundations of the sea, within a year before the destruction of that town, increasing in their accustomed way without limit fifteenfold, announcing the swallowing up of the said town, and sometimes exceeding beyond measure the height of the town, and surrounding it like a wall on every side, threatened the final destruction of that town. And so, with this terrible vision of waters seen on every side, the enclosed persons, with the reliques, crosses, and other ecclesiastical ornaments, which remained secretly in their possession, and accompanied by the viaticum of the body of Christ in the hands of the priest, flocking together, mournfully imploring grace, warded off at that time their destruction. And afterwards, daily removing thence with their possessions, they left that town totally without defence, to be shortly swallowed up, which, with a short intervening period of time, by those merciless tempestuous floods, was irreparably destroyed. But those inhabitants coming together to the town of Kyngeston upon Hull, determined to construct and build there a suitable place for their merchandise, at Drypule, across the river of the water of Hull, in the parts of Holdernes. But the lords of that fee not giving to them, at their will, speedy and placid consent, the said inhabitants determined to remove to that town of Kyngeston, and to other boroughs and maritime towns, wheresoever the spirit should lead them." *

The passage which immediately follows this I have already given (page 11).

The Chronicle of Meaux was written near the close of the 14th century; Mr. Bond thinks between 1394 and 1400. At that period the chronicler states that of the site of Ravenser Odd scarcely a vestige remained, whilst of Ald Ravenser nothing existed, except a single manor house with its appurtenances. (See pp. 10-11 above).

From the continuation of the Chronicle of Meaux, which covers the period from 1396 to 1417, we learn that when Richard II. demanded a subsidy from the clergy of the county of York, the abbot of Meaux claimed partial exemption, on account of lands which had been submerged by the sea. A struggle to maintain this claim continued through many years, and was ultimately successful. I cannot encumber these pages with an account of the tedious proceedings. The only fact which immediately interests us is that in an inquisition held at Hedon on the 10th January, 1401, the abstract of which as given in the Chronicle of Meaux I have translated in the Appendix, 24 messuages in Ravenserodd which belonged to the abbey, were declared to be worth, besides reprises, £13 16s. per annum.

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 120-121.

THE CHAPEL OF RAVENSERODD.



ALD RAVENSER was in the parish of Kilnsea, and, so far as I have been able to discover, never possessed a chapel. I imagine it to have been a hamlet of very small extent, and of very little note, until the neighbouring town of Ravenserodd sprung into existence. The relation between the two places may perhaps be better understood by comparison with a modern parallel. On the north side of a small bay on the coast of the county of Durham, between the Wear and the Tees, stands the ancient town of Hartlepool. About 40 years ago, a modern town sprung up on the south side of the same bay. This also is Hartlepool, but to distinguish it from the old town, it is styled West Hartlepool, whilst the old town itself is now called East Hartlepool. The new town has outgrown and now overshadows the old town. Yet an inhabitant of either place, when in London, Manchester, or Liverpool, frequently describes himself as of Hartlepool, and events occurring in either town are, by people at a distance, simply said to have happened at Hartlepool. In the same way the old village of Ravenser was outgrown and overshadowed by the new town of Ravenser. The latter, for the sake of distinction, was called Ravenser Odd, and the former, after the birth of the new town, was designated Ald Ravenser. Yet, in the literature of the period, that is, in monkish chronicles, charters, letters patent, petitions, and inquisitions, both places are occasionally described simply as Ravenser; the inhabitants of both towns are sometimes only mentioned as "de Ravenser," and events happening at either place are frequently merely chronicled as having occurred "apud Ravenser." For this reason I have not attempted to write the history of these towns separately.

When the town of Ravenserodd was established, it was naturally, like Ravenser itself, regarded as part of the parish of Kilnsea. The rapid growth of the new port soon necessitated some ecclesiastical

provision for the requirements of the inhabitants. A chapel of ease was built. We have no means of ascertaining the precise date of its foundation; but it was in existence in 1272. The chronicler of Meaux, in his record of the events of the abbacy of Robert of Skyrne, from 1270 to 1280, tells us that,

“In those days a composition was made between the abbot of Albemarle and Sir Roger Marmyoun, rector of the church of Esyngton, in reference to the chapels of Skeftlynge and Ravenserodd, by the intervention of Sir Walter Gyffard, the archbishop [of York]; so that the chapel of Skeftlynge should remain in the hands of the said abbot, and the chapel of Ravensere Odd should be for ever incorporated with the said church of Esyngton, and that that church of Esyngton should for ever pay to the aforesaid abbot of Albemarle, in lieu of certain tithes; 23 shillings yearly.”*

The act of composition is copied into the Chartulary of Meaux, now 424 of the Lansdowne MSS. in the British Museum. Of this document Thompson prints a translation which I here repeat :

“Composition for the tithes of the lordship of the church of Esyngton, and the exchange of the chapels of Skeftlyng and Ravenserodde.

“In the name of God, Amen. Know all men, that whereas matter of dispute and dissention has arisen between our beloved sons in Christ, the abbot and convent of Albemarle in the diocese of Roüen, by brother Gilbert, their fellow monk having sufficient procuration from them, of the one part, and Master Roger Marmion, rector of the church of Esyngton of the other part, respecting the chapel of Birstall, as also concerning the great and small tithes, offerings and profits of Skeftelyng, and the lordship of Esyngton : at length the beforementioned parties have submitted themselves purely and absolutely, in regard to all the premises, to the order and disposition of us, Walter, by the grace of God, archbishop of York, primate of England, as is more fully contained in the letters of submission of the same parties, which are these :

“To all who shall see or hear this writing, brother Gilbert de Illoys, proctor of the abbot and convent of Albemarle, greeting in the Lord : Whereas a controversy has arisen between the above-named, my masters, and Master Roger Marmyon, rector of the church of Esyngton, respecting the tithes of Skeftelyng and the lordship of Esyngton, I, in regard to these matters, and also in regard to annexing the chapel of Ravenser od to the church of Esyngton aforesaid, in the name of my masters, submit myself purely and absolutely to the order of the venerable father, lord Walter, by the grace of God, archbishop of York, primate of England, ratifying whatsoever the same father shall do therein. In testimony whereof, I have affixed my seal to the

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 153.

present writing. Done at Chirchedon, the 8th of February, in the year of grace, 1273 [-4].

“To all who shall see or hear this writing, Roger Marmyon, rector of the church of Esyngton, greeting in the Lord : Whereas a controversy has arisen between the abbot and convent of Albemarle, of the one part, and myself of the other, respecting the tithes of Skeftelyng and the lordship of Esyngton, I, in regard to these matters, and also in regard to annexing the chapel of Ravenser od to the church of Esyngton aforesaid, submit myself purely and absolutely to the order of the venerable father, lord Walter, by the grace of God, archbishop of York, primate of England, ratifying whatsoever the same father shall do therein. In testimony whereof I have affixed my seal to the present writing. Done at Chirchedon, the 8th of February, in the year of grace, 1273 [-4].

“We, therefore, desiring as much as in us lies, to provide for the blessing of peace amongst those who are subject to us, and having God before our eyes, in cutting off for the future the matter of dispute between each of the parties, having deliberated with our chapter of York, as was fitting, order, determine and pronounce in this manner, that is to say : that the chapel of Birstall, with its appurtenances, shall remain impropriated to the said abbot and convent, also that the same abbot and convent shall have and receive without disturbance, the great and small tithes, offerings and profits of the town of Skæftelynge, as has been elsewhere ordered by Walter de Grey, of blessed memory, late archbishop of York, our predecessor. We also order and determine, that for the tithes of the lordship of Esyngton, which the aforesaid abbot and convent have been accustomed to receive, the said Roger and his successors in the church of Esyngton, shall pay without delay twenty-three shillings every year to the same abbot and convent, or their proctor at Birstall, on the feast of St. Martin, in the winter. But if the rector for the time being shall presume to fail in the payment of this modus, we will and determine that he ought to be compelled to the full payment by us, or our official, or the official of our successors, by the censure which may seem expedient, at the suggestion of the said abbot and convent, or their proctor, without contention in a court of law. Moreover, we order and determine, with the full consent of the parties aforesaid, and also of Master Stephen Hedon, vicar of the church of Kilnesey, (who assents and spontaneously submits himself to our order by his letter, which is this : I, Stephen, vicar of the church of Kylesey, assent to the order which the venerable father Walter, by the grace of God archbishop of York, primate of England, has made respecting the chapel of Ravenser od, in consolidating it with the church of Esyngton, and submit myself absolutely, in this respect, to the power and disposition of the same father. In testimony whereof I have affixed my seal to the present writing. Done at Chirchedon, the 8th of February, in the year of our Lord, 1273 [-4].) that the chapel of Ravenser od, with its appurtenances, shall be for ever consolidated with the church of Esyngton, and shall be entirely dependent on the same, so that the

same Roger, and his successors in the church of Esyngton, may have the said chapel without disturbance for ever ; so that the aforesaid abbot and convent, or the vicar of the church of Kylnesey, may not hereafter claim to themselves any right in the chapel of Ravenser od. We will also and direct that, as well the said rector for the chapel of Birstall, as the said Stephen for the chapel of Ravenser od, for themselves, and their successors, shall make their resignations by writings, and the parties shall, both of them, mutually deliver up to each other, for their security, all the instruments which they have respecting the chapels aforesaid. But, if either party should be disturbed by the other, or by the vicar of the church of Kilnesey, in respect of the above-mentioned chapels, we will that on both sides they be subject to the pain of ejection. We also order, by consent of the parties, that all contentions, dissensions and disputes, which have heretofore arisen between them, shall hereafter entirely be at rest. Reserving to ourselves the power of supplying, interpreting, correcting and reforming this our order as often as it shall be necessary, and we shall see expedient. In testimony whereof to this our order, approved of by the parties, is appended our seal, together with the seals of the parties and of the said vicar. Given at Chirchedon, the 8th of February, in the year of grace, 1273 [-4], and the 8th of our pontificate." *

On the 4th September, 1291, Archbishop Romanus addressed a letter to the warden of the Friars Minors at York, announcing his intention to preach in York Minster, on behalf of the Crusade, on the day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [14th September], and requesting them to send three friars to preach for the same object, and on the same day, at Howden, Selby and Pocklington. To the transcript of this letter in the archbishop's register, a memorandum is added stating that similar commissions were issued to the Friars Preachers and Minors throughout the diocese. This is followed by a preaching list, from which we learn that the Friars Preachers of Beverley were to supply one preacher to Preston or Hedon on this occasion, another to Ravenshere, and a third to "le Wyk." †

We shall again have occasion to refer to the transactions by which the monks of Meaux gave their possessions in Wyk and Myton to Edward I. in exchange for various other properties. The deed of feoffment, by which the exchange was made, was executed about the day of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, in 21 Edward I. (2nd February, 1293). Part of the equivalents given to the abbey by the

* Thompson's *Ocellum Promontorium*, pp. 183-187.

† *Letters from Northern Registers*, p. 98-95.

king consisted of the advowsons of the churches of Skipsea, Easington and Kayingham, although this grant was not made until eleven years after the surrender of Wyk and Myton. The monks afterwards secured from Edward III. a royal license to appropriate the churches of Kayingham and Easington. When, in 1339, Hugh of Leven succeeded to the abbey of Meaux, one of the first objects which engaged his attention, was to complete the appropriation of these churches. He first induced John de Cotyngham, at that time rector of Easington, to resign his living, for an annuity of 80 marks and a grant of the manors of Arnall, Rowton and Hayholme for his life.* The abbot next presented Hugh de Glanville, then rector of Kayingham, to the living of Easington. A few years after this arrangement had been effected, the abbot petitioned William de Zouch, archbishop of York, for the appropriation of Easington. The petition set forth that,

“Whereas our manors and lands of Saltagh, Tharlesthorp, Frysmerske, Wythfleet, Dymelton and Ravenserodd, and the lands, pastures and other places belonging to the said manors, with which our monastery was endowed from ancient time, to the amount of 250*l.* every year, from which also the greater part of our sustenance was well known to arise, were situated on the shore of the water of the Humber and the coast of the sea, and were so destroyed every day and night by increasing inundations of the waters, that of those manors, lands, pastures and places in this way destroyed, the true value scarcely amounts to twenty pounds a year; and, what is worse, from day to day they become such waste places, agitated by impetuous floods every day and night, that within a short time they will be entirely destroyed and consumed, in a way much to be dreaded, etc.”†

The petition proceeds, for these and other reasons, to pray for the appropriation of the church of Easington. The archbishop, after due enquiry, and on certain conditions which it is not necessary to detail here, granted the petition.‡ By this appropriation the chapel of Ravenserodd, as a dependency upon Easington, came into the hands of the monks of Meaux. The appropriation of Kayingham followed after a time.

* “John de Cottingham, the last rector of the church of Easington, used to sit upon a tombstone in the churchyard of Easington, and there receive of fifty inhabitants of [Ravenser] Odd, the tythes, &c., of that place.”—*Chartulary of Meaux*, per Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 372.

† *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 7-8.

‡ His award, which is translated by Thompson (*Ocellum Promontorium*, p. 170-175) is dated at York, the 30th January, 1346 [-7].

The chapel of Ravenserodd did not remain long the property of the abbey. The chronicler of Meaux, still recording the events of Hugh of Leven's government (1339 to 1349), tells us that,

"At that time the chapel of Ravenserre, dependent on the said church of Esyngton, recently appropriated to us, and the greater part of the buildings of the whole town of Ravenserre, by the inundations of the waters of the sea and of the Humber, increasing more than usual, were almost completely thrown down. For which cause some inhabitants and dwellers in that town have removed to other places, leaving the said town in a measure desolate; so that the profits, tithes and offerings, which used to pertain to the said chapel, and in which the greatest part of the profits of the said church of Esyngton used to consist, on account of the absence of the people, are to a large extent not forthcoming." *

The story of destruction and desolation is continued in the chronicler's record of the first abbacy of William of Dringhow, from 1349 to 1353. "Meantime," he says,

"When the inundations of the sea and of the Humber had destroyed to the foundations the chapel of Ravenserre Odd, built in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that the corpses and bones of the dead there buried horribly appeared, and the same inundations daily threatened the destruction of the said town, sacreligious persons carried off and alienated certain ornaments of the said chapel, without our due consent, and disposed of them for their own pleasure; except a few ornaments, images, books and a bell which we sold to the mother church of Esyngton, and two smaller bells, to the church of Aldeburghe. But that town of Ravenserre Odd, in the parish of the said church of Esyngton, was an exceedingly famous borough, devoted to merchandise, as well as many fisheries, most abundantly furnished with ships and burgesses amongst the boroughs of that sea coast. But yet, with all inferior places, and chiefly by wrong-doing on the sea, by its wicked works and piracies (*praedationibus*), it provoked the wrath of God against itself beyond measure. Wherefore, within the few following years, the said town, by those inundations of the sea and of the Humber, was destroyed to the foundations, so that nothing of value was left." †

On the 25th July, 1355, the abbot of Meaux was ordered to gather up the bodies of the dead which had been buried in the chapel yard of Ravenser, and which by reason of inundations were then washed up and uncovered, and to bury them in the church-yard of Esington.‡

We must now return to John of Cottingham, who was induced by

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 21.]

† *Ibid*, iii., p. 79.

‡ Thompson's *Ocellum Promontorium*, p. 176.

abbot Hugh of Leven to resign the living of Easington. The terms on which this resignation was procured were that the rector should have an annuity of 80 marks, together with a grant of the manors of Arnall, Rowton and Hayholme for his life. After the first year the annuity was exchanged for a grant for life of rents of lands in Ottringham, Dymelton and Rowth. Very shortly afterwards Cottingham surrendered the manors of Arnall and Rowton to the monastery. Many years later he surrendered the manor of Ottringham for an annual rent of £40 a year during his life. The monks, however, failed to pay this rent for two years; when, for the accumulated debt of £80 they granted to Cottingham, and Mabel his sister, all their tenements in Cottingham, worth nine marks a year, and a corrody of 100 shillings for the term of their lives and that of the survivor of them. The corrody was afterwards exchanged for an annual payment of 10 quarters of corn and oats for the term of Mabel de Cottingham's life, and a similar payment for the term of another sister's life. By and bye, the monks were again in arrear to Cottingham. The debt now amounted to £100, in lieu of the payment of which they covenanted to maintain a chantry in Easington church, in which a secular or religious priest should say mass daily for the soul of the said John, for the soul of Edward III. then king of England, and for the souls of Sir Robert de Cottingham, at one time rector of Easington, and of all the faithful departed. John de Cottingham seems always to have treated the monks in a generous way, for after the destruction of Ravenser Odd, and in consideration of the loss of tithes, offerings and profits they thereby sustained, he surrendered and quit-claimed all which he held by their grants in Ottringham, Dymelton, and Rowth, and they granted him afresh the manor of Hayholm and £20 a year for the term of his life.

This digression was necessary that the reader may understand the following extract from the Chronicle of Meaux, which occurs in the record of the events of the abbacy of Robert of Beverley, from 1356 to 1367.

“ And afterwards we begun an endless effort to induce the king to diminish the tax of the said church of Easington. Wherefore the king directed a writ to Lord John [Thoresby], then archbishop of York, requiring that he should inform him of the true value of that church of

Esyngton, and that he should render account thereof into chancery, under his seal. By virtue of which writ, the official of the archdeacon of the East Riding, deputed by the archbishop to enquire concerning this matter, coming to the said church of Esyngton, inquiring thereat, by upright men and sworn neighbours, both secretly and separately examined, with all diligence, for the truth as to the true value of the said church, and in what things and portions it consisted, and to what tax it was taxed, and also concerning the burdens incumbent on the said church, and concerning all other articles and circumstances, learned that the said church of Esyngton was taxed at 40 pounds a year; but that on account of the diminution and loss of the town of Ravensere Odd, as has been aforesaid, and of the towns of Hoton, Northorp, Dymelton and Newton, which were in and of the parish of the said church, consumed by degrees by the inundations of the sea in those parts, the profits of the said church of Esyngton, arising from the marshes of the town of Esyngton, and from a place which is called 'le Hawenne' [*i.e.*, the haven], and other yearly fruits pertaining to the said church, have been daily diminished by the said inundations, and may be feared continually to diminish in a similar way in the future; and that the said church was perpetually burdened by yearly pensions, paying 38 marks to various persons in ordinary burdens, besides finding one priest there, and other extraordinary burdens; and, by this means, all the fruits, rents and yearly profits of the said church remaining in our hands, and to be converted to our use and advantage, with the necessary burdens of that church deducted, after the destruction of the town of Ravensere Odd, and other injuries effected by the inundations of the sea and of the Humber, scarcely amounted to 20 marks a year. All which facts, so learned by inquisition, the same official certified to the archbishop, and the archbishop to the king in chancery." *

Nothing resulted from this inquisition, and the subsequent history of the church of Easington throws no light on the destruction of Ravenser or its chapel. In the Hedon inquisition of January, 1401, the chapel of Ravenserodde, with the town itself, was declared to be worth, in spiritualities, more than £30 per annum.

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 123-4.

THE BURGESSES AND LAND-OWNERS OF RAVENSER.



THE ANCIENT vill of Ravenser formed part of the great lordship of Holderness, and, as we have seen, was, in the middle of the 13th century, in the hands of the third William de Fortibus, earl of Albemarl. On the death of the earl's widow the seigniory reverted to the crown, and was in the king's hands when Ravenserodde was made a free borough.

The first inhabitant of Ravenserodde was the adventurous individual who took possession of a ship which had been stranded on the island, and turned it into a residence. The document which preserves this idyll in Ravenser's history omits to mention the solitary islander's name. Probably he rejoiced, like most people of his day, only in a baptismal name. But taking up his abode in this romantic way on a sandy island, and presently developing a trade monopoly in selling meat and drink to merchants and sailors, he would be certain soon to gain a more distinctive cognomen. What under such circumstances should we call a man whose Christian name might chance to be Peter? We might call him "Peter on the Island," but this would be a rather cumbrous designation, and "Peter at Sea" would be much more likely to be adopted as his name. We are speaking, it must be remembered, of a time when everyone was surnamed in description of his place of abode, his occupation, or his personal appearance or peculiarities. Our islander was, for a time, the only man in south-east Yorkshire who had his home "at sea," and was consequently the only man to whom such a designation was likely to be given. When, therefore, we find that one of the earliest burgesses of Ravenser was really named "Peter atte See," we are justified in regarding as a probability, which is almost a certainty, the theory that he was the man, or the son of the man, who turned the abandoned vessel into a habitation.

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The first Peter atte See of whom we have any authentic record, was one of the inhabitants of Ravenserodd of whose adventurous attempts to bring trade to their new town, the burgesses of Grimsby complained in 1290. The inquisition styles him Peter de Mari. In the following year he was one of the defendants, in the suit of the men of Grimsby, tried in the court of the king's bench. He is then designated Peter de la Mer. He represented Ravenser in the parliament of 1304, and was one of the burgesses of that town who had been robbed by Dutch marauders in 1310. He on one occasion lent a considerable sum of money to the abbey of Meaux, under circumstances and conditions which I shall hereafter have occasion to detail. He died 12 Edward II. (1318-9). In the rolls of parliament two petitions from his executors occur, the first of which is enrolled amongst those of 15 and 16 Edward II. The following is a translation :

"To our lord the king and his council pray the executors of Peter atte See, of Ravensrodde, that they will, for the love of God, ordain a remedy against Robert Romayn, escheator of our lord the king, who took from the said Peter atte See, when he was dying in his bed, for the service of our lord, in the 12th year of his reign, flesh and fish, to the value of 10 marks, of which they have the account made by the said Robert, of which money they are not yet paid, by which cause the will of the said Peter, according to the law of holy church, and the oath of the said executors, is not yet fulfilled, &c." *

The decision on the petition was that the petitioners should have a writ, framed on its terms, and returnable *coram rege*. The second petition is enrolled amongst those of uncertain date, in the reign of Edward III. I translate it as follows.

"To our lord the king and his council pray the executors of Peter atte See, and Thomas le Tavernere, of Ravenserodde, that it may please him, in the way of charity, and for the soul of his father, to command payment or assignment of 39*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, which his said father owed them for corn, black bread (brees), and other victuals, bought from them, and for the service of the king's father during his war with Scotland, as may more fully appear by the account of his wardrobe ; and execution of the wills of the aforesaid Peter and Thomas cannot be made before they are fully paid the debt aforesaid." †

The answer was that the treasurer, barons and chamberlain of the exchequer should enquire into the alleged debt, ascertain if the

* *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, i., p. 407.

† *Ibid* ii., p. 888.

petitioners were really executors, and if the debt was still due, and having satisfied themselves on this point, pay the claim at once.

Poulson prints an interesting, though not quite accurate, pedigree of the family of De la See, from which we learn that some of Peter's descendants intermarried with some of the best families of the north. The last male representative of the family was Sir Martin de la Mare, knighted in 1482, and, dying in 1494, was buried in Barmston church, where his fine altar tomb still remains.*

The tradition which connects the first De la Poles with Ravenser is authenticated by the very respectable authority of the Chronicle of Meaux. This history, however, makes no mention of the first Sir William de la Pole, with whom the pedigree printed by Frost begins, but, referring to his son, the second Sir William, says, "he was at first a merchant, and, instructed at Ravensrodd in the knowledge of merchandise (*mercandizandi scientia instructus*), was afterwards second to no English merchant."† He and his brother, Richard de la Pole, probably removed to Hull early in the 14th century. The story of their unparalleled prosperity there has been told by Mr. John Travis-Cook ("The Story of the De la Poles," Hull, 1888). Their princely loans and gifts to Edward III. seem almost fabulous. When, however, royalty was accommodated some return was expected, and the customs and lands which were granted to the brothers, no doubt in the end fully reimbursed their outlay, with liberal interest. Amongst the lands granted to Sir William in 12 Edward III., Ravensere is mentioned.‡ In 40 Edward III. (1366-7), Katherine, the widow of Sir William de la Pole, released and quit-claimed all her right and title to her husband's lands in Holderness, his possessions in Ravensere being enumerated amongst the rest.§

* The pedigree of the family of Atte See or De la Mare, which I here venture to print, must be regarded merely as a revision, correction, and extension of that printed by Poulson. It is by no means so complete as I could wish it to be. Still it corrects many of Poulson's mistakes. The history of this family is an exceedingly interesting one, to which many pages might have been devoted; but all the facts, so far as I have ascertained them, are included in the pedigree, and therein the reader will find quite a romantic record, extending through several generations.

† *Chronica Monasterii de M. Ilsa*, iii., p. 48.

‡ *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, ii., pp. 128, 128.

§ *Ibid*, p. 289.

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We have already seen that one of the burgesses of Ravenser bore the singular surname of Rotenheryng. To him Edward III. granted a safe conduct for his ship, the Radegunde, of Ravenser, in 1338. He was, I believe, the brother of John Rotenheryng, of Hull, who married the widow of the first William de la Pole.*

* See the De la Pole pedigree, in Frost, and page 65, with the note y, of Frost's *Notices*.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES OF PROPERTY IN RAVENSER.



IN 28 EDWARD I. (1299-1300), the king gave to the abbot and convent of Thornton a certain piece of land with its appurtenances in Ravenserodde, which they held by the grant of Isabella de Fortibus, at one time countess of Albemarle, to be for ever held by the abbot and convent and their successors, paying a yearly rent thence of one mark.*

In the same year the king granted to Walter de Langeton, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and master of the hospital of St. Leonard, at York, a certain unoccupied place in the town of Ravenserodde, to be held by the said master and the succeeding masters of that hospital, they paying a yearly rent of three shillings.†

In 34 Edward I. (1305-6), the prioress of Swine paid a fine of six marks to the king for license to enter into possession of a lay tenement in Ravenserodde,‡ which is elsewhere described as one messuage with its appurtenances in Ravenserod, for which William de Swine answered on behalf of the said prioress.§

In 31 Edward I., John, son of Ingram de Rison, held two carucates of land in Ravenser.¶

Mr. Poulson prints an abstract of the will of a burgess of Ravenser which is too interesting to be omitted here.

“Alexander Cocks, of Ravenser-odd, by will there dated, on Wednesday next after the feast of St. James [25th July], in the year 1327, gives his soul to God Almighty, St. Mary, and all the saints, and his body to be buried in the chapel yard (cemetrio capelle). He gives his best animal for his mortuary, and six shillings and eight pence to provide wax to burn about his body on his burial day. To

* *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, i., p. 112. *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, vol. i., p. 164.

† *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, i., p. 112.

‡ *Ibid*, p. 148.

§ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, i., p. 209.

¶ *Surtees Society*, xlix., 246.

the poor he leaves 30s., and 40s. more to be expended on the convening of his friends. To the fabric of St. Mary, at Ravenser-odd, he bequeaths 6s. 8d., to William, the chaplain thereof, 2s., to seven other chaplains celebrating in the said chapel, 12d. each. To his son and heir, Peter, he devises all his tenements in Kingston-upon-Hull, and a place in Ravenser-odd, with the buildings thereon, as it lyes in length and breadth between the tenement of Thos. Coas, on one side, and that of Galfrid Champion on the other. To his son Thomas he gives a place in Ravenser-odd, with the buildings thereon, and a rent of 15s. yearly issuing out of the tenement in which Laurence Lygeard now dwells; and another yearly rent of 4s. 6d., out of the tenement of Gilbert the priest, with a windmill in Hull, given to the testator by Walter Grave. To Alexander, his son, he leaves the tenement in Ravenser-odd now occupied by the testator, and a place with buildings opposite to it, with a messuage on the Humber, given to the testator by John, son of Hugh Cocks. To this said son Alexander he gives two shops (seldas) in Kirklane vall, his lands in Out-Newton. To his sister Emma he leaves 30s. yearly out of two shops, at the bridge foot of Whitby, for her life. To his son Thomas, and his heirs, he gives the reversion of a yearly rent of 4s. 6d. The residue of his effects he leaves to Alice, his wife, appointing his sons Peter and Alexander his executors." *

In 1 Edward III. (1327-8), Matilda Morkel held the day on which she died, one cottage with its appurtenances, in Ravenser of the king in capite, as of the honour of Albemarle, as in burgage, and by the payment of 6d., at St. Martin and Pentecost in lieu of all service.†

John Togge, of Kingston upon Hull, by will, dated Saturday after the feast of St. George [23 April], 1334, bequeaths a tenement in Ravenser Odd to Catherine, his wife, and Alice, his daughter.‡

In 18 Edward III. (1344-5), the king commits to John de Monte Gomery and Roger de Munketon, goldsmith (orfever), of York, the custody of all the lands and tenements which belonged to Thomas de Cotes, of Ravenesrod, deceased, by reason of the minority of his heir, to hold the same during the king's pleasure.§

In 18 Edward III. (1344-5), Stephen Thorpe, of Welwick Thorpe, probably the grandson of the Stephen Thorpe mentioned on p. 11, held in Ald Ravenser a carucate and a half of land, held of the king

* Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 584.

† Ibid., ii., p. 536; *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, ii., p. 2.

‡ Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 584.

§ *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, ii., p. 166.

in capite, as of the honour of Albemarle, by fealty and service of paying 6d. to Skipsea castle ward.*

In 33 Edward III. (1359-60), Peter Cok (? Cocks), of Ravenser, held one messuage with its appurtenances in Ravenser, as of the honour of Albemarle.†

In 1379, Ravenser is mentioned as one of the places forfeited by Ingelram de Courcy, and Isabel, his wife, daughter of Edward III., in consequence of their defection from the cause of Richard II.‡

Ravenser, or some property therein, is included amongst the possessions of the priory of Burstall, which, with the priory itself, were sold to the abbot and convent of Kirkstall in 1395 §

* Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., 537.

† *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem* ii., p. 212.

‡ Rymer's *Foedera*, vii. p. 214.

§ Burton's *Monasticon Eboracense*, p. 299.

RAVENSER SPURN.



THE FIRST historic mention of Ravenspurn, or rather Ravenser Spurn, occurs in the accounts of the landing at this place of Henry, duke of Lancaster, in June, 1399.* He was the son and heir of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster. His father and mother were both great-grandchildren of Henry III.; the former by descent from Edward I., and the latter by descent from his brother, Edmund, earl of Lancaster. The young duke had been banished by Richard II., in order, it is said, to prevent a duel between him and the duke of Norfolk. John of Gaunt had died at the bishop of Ely's inn, in Holborn, in the preceding February. The whole nation had become impatient of Richard's weak and arbitrary proceedings; and the king himself was absent on an expedition into Ireland. The time was favourable. Henry embarked at Nantes with a retinue of 60 persons, amongst whom were the archbishop of Canterbury and the young earl of Arundel. Soon after his landing at Spurn, he was joined by Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, and Ralph Neville, earl of Westmoreland. Lords, barons and commons flocked to his standard, and his army soon numbered 60,000 men. Richard was deposed and imprisoned, and in little more than three months after his arrival in this country, the duke of Lancaster was declared, by the unanimous voice of lords and commons in parliament, king of England.

When Henry IV. landed at Ravenser Spurn, the towns of Ravenser and Ravenserodd had long been engulfed by the waters. That long bank of sand which we call Spurn, with the adjacent coast,

* The practical identity of the sites of Ravenserodd and Ravenser Spurn is established in a curious way. The continuator of abbot Burton's Chronicle of Meaux twice mentions the landing at this place of Henry IV. In one case he speaks of him as having landed "at Ravenser Spurne" (*Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 299). In the other case he is described as having landed "at the aforementioned place called Ravenserodd, where the aforementioned but then consumed town of Odd near Ravenser was built long ago" (*Ibid.*, ii., p. 254 n).

presented an aspect of desolate solitude, which, even in these days, in a measure it retains. The lonely situation had attracted thither a hermit, who had begun to build for himself an anchorage and chapel. Of that anchorage the present lighthouse of Spurn is the lawful lineal descendant. The sands of Spurn have shifted, though not nearly to the extent commonly thought, and the present lighthouse does not stand on the site of its predecessors. But there is historic evidence that Spurn Head for many centuries has preserved the general outline it bears now, and which has been very aptly compared to the shape of a spoon. On the bowl of the spoon, if I may be allowed the expression, the anchorage and chapel to which I have referred were built; and as we know that the duke of Lancaster on landing was met by the hermit, it follows that he landed at the bulb-like extremity of Spurn Head.

But it is with the hermit, Matthew Danthorpe, that we are now especially interested. He met the future king and retinue at their landing. Probably his presence there was considered a good omen to the expedition. At all events, the new king, who on the 30th September was proclaimed the sovereign of this realm, on the very next day, the first of October, granted his royal license to Matthew Danthorpe to continue and complete the hermitage and chapel which he had begun to build. The following is a translation of this document :

“The king, to all to whom, etc., greeting.

“Be it known that, whereas Matthew Danthorp, hermit, has begun to build anew a certain chapel, in a certain place called Ravenserspurne, at which, at our last coming into England, we landed (our license herein not being obtained), which he intends, as we have learned, to complete, at his great cost and expense,

“For the love of God and of the blessed Virgin Mary, in whose honour the aforesaid chapel, so begun, is to be built, and also that the said Matthew may attain a more joyful and fervent mind for the completion of the said chapel, of our special grace we have pardoned and remitted to the said Matthew all manner of trespasses and mistakes committed by him in this matter, and whatsoever is forfeited by him into our hands, or incurred by the aforesaid occasions.

“And moreover, of our more abundant grace, we have given and granted to the said Matthew the aforesaid place, to hold to his successors, the hermits of the aforesaid place, together with the chapel aforesaid, when it shall be built and finished, and also the wreck of the sea, and waifs, and all other profits and commodities contingent to the sands for two leagues round the same place, for ever

"Saving and reserving always to the chief lord of that fee the royal fishes,* which may there be found :

"The statute passed concerning placing lands and tenements in mortmain, or any other cause whatsoever, notwithstanding.

"In which, etc.,

"Witnessed by the king at Westminster, the first day of October [1399]. By the king himself."†

A few years passed by, and Matthew Danthorp was gone. Another hermit had taken his place. This was Richard Reedbarrow, to whom Spurn owed its first lighthouse. We first hear of him in 6 Henry VI. (1427-8), when he addresses a petition to parliament, which, as an example of the English of the period, and still more, as a proof that in what we are in the habit of regarding as a dark age, even a religious recluse could be animated by the loftiest spirit of benevolence towards his fellow men, deserves to be reproduced here :

"To the wyse Comones of this present Parlement. Besekith your povre bedeman, Richard Reedbarowe, Heremyte of the Chapell of our Lady and Seint Anne atte Ravensersporne. That forasmuche that many diverses straites and daungers been in the entryng into the river of Humbre out of the See, where ofte tymes by mysaventure many divers Vesselx, and Men, Godes and Marchaundises, be lost and perished, as well by Day as be Night, for defaute of a Bekyn, that shuld teche the poeple to hold in the right chanell ; so that the seid Richard, havynge compassion and pitee of the Cristen poeple that ofte tymes are there perished, and also of the Godes and Marchaundise there lost, hath begunne in weye of Charite, in Salvacion of Cristen poeple, Godes and Marchaundises comynge into Humbre, to make a Toure to be uppon day light a redy Bekyn, wheryn shall be light gevyng by nyght, to alle the Vesselx that comyn into the seid Ryver of Humbre ; the wiche Toure may not be made nor brought to an ende withouten grete cost, help and relevyng of the Shipmen, Mariners and

* Royal fishes ; whales and sturgeons, which belong to the crown when thrown on shore.

† Rymer's *Fœdera*, viii., p. 89. This grant is enrolled on the first membrane of the fifth bundle of patent rolls of 1 Henry the fourth. In the printed calendar of those rolls it is described in the following terms :

De heremitagio aedificando apud quendam locum vocatum Ravenescrosbourne ; in quo Rex in ult' suo adventu applicuit.

Mr. Thompson quotes this passage from the calendar, but by an oversight ascribes it to the first year of Henry the fifth, and having previously given the grant itself from Rymer, concludes this to be "a renewal of it" (*Ocellum Promontorium*, p. 189). But Thompson's blunder, which the most casual reference to the printed calendar would have corrected, is copied by Poulson (*Holderness*, ii., p. 538); and either Thompson or Poulson has in this matter been copied by Mr. Kropf (*Hull and East Riding Portfolio*, p. 76).

Mr. Poulson (*Holderness*, ii., p. 539) connects the name Ravenescrosbourne in the calendar with the Kilnsea cross, now at Hedon. But Ravenescrosbourne is simply a mistake on the part of the compiler of the calendar. I have referred to the original roll, and find that the grant therein is that printed by Rymer, in which the name is given as Ravenserespoune.

Vesselx comyng that weye ; and atte the diligent pursuyte of the seid Richard, it was preid by the Comones of the Parlement holdon last at Leycestre, to makyng of the seid Toure, to have Letres Patentz of our Sovereigne Lord the Kyng, for to take and resceyve of every Vessell ladon of $\frac{xx}{vi}$ [*i.e.*, 120] tonnetite and over, xiid. and of every Vessell of c tonnetite, viiid. and of every Vessell of lesse tite, iiiid. as ofte tymes as thei comen in, to endure by x yere ; wich is yit the disire and fulle wille of all Marchauntz, Shipmen, and Maryners longyng to Hull, as by here Letres Patentz thereof made oppunly appiert. That it like to your high and wise discrecions, to prey to oure Sovereigne Lord the Kyng, by assent of his Lordes Spirituelx and Temperelx in this present Parlement beyng, to graunte by auctorite of the seid Parlement, to the seid Richard, by his Letres Patentz to endure by x yere, to have and to resceyve of every Vessell ladon of $\frac{xx}{vi}$ tonnetite and over, xiid. and of every othir Vessel of c tonnetite, viiid. and of every othir Vessell of lesse tite, iiiid. as ofte tymes as thei come into Humbre, by the handes of John Tutbury, Thomas Marchall, Fitlyng, Robert Holme, and William Robynsson, Marchantz and Maryners of Hull ; and that the same Monoie resceyved in fourme aforesaid, be dispended and disposed by the governaunce, disposicion and oversite, of the seid John, Thomas, Robert and William, in and for the makyng and accomplicement of the Toure aforesaid, in comfort, relevyng and salvacion of all Marchants, Maryners, Vesselx, Godes and Marchaundises, and of the Kynges Custumes and Subsidies of the same Godes and Marchaundises there comyng ; and for Seinte Charite." *

The patent granted to Reedbarrow is almost a translation into Latin of his petition ; but, as every scrap of information which can be attained about that worthy individual is of interest, the document which granted the privileges he desired must not be omitted here :

"The king to all to whom, etc., greeting. Know ye that whereas there exist divers strait places and dangers in the entrance into the river of Humbre from the sea, where many vessels, men and merchandise, are often unfortunately lost, and in danger as well by day as by night, for want of a certain mark called a "beken," by which people might know to hold the right channel ; and a certain Richard Reedbarowe, hermit of the chapel of the Blessed Mary and St. Anne at Ravensersporne, having pity and compassion of the Christian people and of the goods and merchandise there lost, has charitably begun [to build] a certain tower there, for the preservation of the said Christian people, and of the goods and merchandise coming into that river, to be a mark visible and noteworthy by itself by day, and by the light to be found in it by night, to all vessels coming into the same river, which tower, without great costs, to the help and relief of sailors, mariners, and ships coming thither, cannot be perfected and brought to an end, as we are informed more fully by a certain petition laid before us in

* *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, iv., p. 864-5.

our present parliament, by the commons of our kingdom of England, assembled in the same parliament ; We, wishing, as we are bound, to provide everywhere for the preservation and security of our liege subjects, by the advise and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and at the special request of the commons aforesaid, have granted and given license to the mayor of the town of Hull for the time being that he, for the ten years next ensuing, in aid of the completion and construction of the tower aforesaid, may take and have, by himself and his deputies whom he pleases to appoint to this duty, from every ship of the burden of 120 tons and more, coming from the sea into the aforesaid river, 12d. ; and from every other ship of the burden of 100 tons, so coming from the sea into the same river, 8d. ; and from every other vessel of less burden coming in the same way into that river, 4d. ; as often as such ships and vessels shall come from the sea into the aforesaid river, as is aforesaid ; Saving to the lords and all others of our liege subjects their liberties and franchises previously granted to them ; Provided always that the moneys so to be received from the ships and vessels aforesaid shall be applied and faithfully expended in the completion and construction of the tower aforesaid, by the supervision, direction and advice of John Tuttebury, Thomas Marchall, John Fitlyng, Robert Holme and William Robinson, merchants and mariners, of the town aforesaid ; or of any others to be appointed to this duty by the Chancellor of England for the time being ; and that the aforesaid mayor, during the term aforesaid, shall yearly render a faithful account before the above-mentioned persons so appointed, and to be appointed, of the moneys to be received by him and his deputies aforesaid, whenever he shall be duly required to do so by the same persons. In which, etc., to continue for the aforesaid ten years. Witnessed by the king at Westminster, the 28th day of November [1427].” *

The later history of Spurn lighthouse does not come within the scope of this book.

For the chapter of English history which records the wars of the roses we have no space here. The story of the flight of Edward IV. to Holland is well known, as is also that of his return and landing at Ravenser Spurn, called by Holinshed and others, Ravenspurgh.

The account of Edward's landing, as given by Holinshed, contains so many local allusions, and mentions in such interesting connection a descendant of that worthy burgess of Ravenser, Peter atte See, that it would be inexcusable to omit it from any account of the history of Ravenser Spurn. Edward's small fleet was lying off Norfolk, and he had sent a reconnoitering party on shore to ascertain the possibility of landing there.

“ Vpon their returne, he vnderstood that there was no suertie for

* Patent Roll, 6 Henry VI., part 1., m. 6.

him to land in those parties, by reason of the good order which the earle of Warwike, and the earle of Oxford especiallie, had taken in that countrie to resist him : for not, onelie the duke of Norffolke, but all other the gentlemen (whome the earle of Warwike had in anie suspicion) were by letters of priuie seale sent for, and either committed to safe keeping about London, or else inforced to find suertie for their loiall demeanor towards king Henrie : yet those knights and other that were thus sent foorth to make inquirie, were well receiued of their friends, and had good cheare. But after the king perceiued by their report, how things stood thereabouts, he caused his ships to make course towards the north parts.

“ The same night following, a great storme of winds and weather rose, sore troubling the seas, and continued till the fourteenth day of that moneth being thursday, on the which day with greater danger, by reason of the tempestuous rage and torment of the troubled seas, he arriued at the head of Humber, where the other ships were scattered from him, each one seuered from other ; so that of necessitie they were driuen to land in sunder where they best might, for doubt to be cast awaie in that perillous tempest. The king with the lord Hastings his chamberleine, and other to the number of fiew hundred men being in one ship, landed within Humber on Holdernesse side, at a place called Rauenspurgh, euen in the same place where Henrie erle of Derby, after called king Henrie the fourth landed, when he came to depriue king Richard the second of the crowne, and to vsurpe it to himselfe.

“ Richard duke of Glocester, and three hundred men in his companie, tooke land in another place foure miles distant from thence, where his brother king Edward did land. The earle Riuers, and with him two hundred men, landed at a place called Pole,* fourteene miles from the hauen where the king came on land. The residue of his people landed some here, some there, in place where for their suerties they thought best. On the morrow, being the fifteenth of March, now that the tempest ceased, and euerie man being got to land, they drew from euerie of their landing places towards the king, who for the first night was lodged in a poore village,† two miles from the place where he first set foot on land. [As for his traine, though the season of the yeere was naturallie cold, and therefore required competent refection by warmth, it is to be supposed, that all their lodgings were hard inough, sith the principals prouision was sorie inough. But what of that? Better (in cases of extremitie) an hard shift than none at all.]

* That is, Paull, near Hedon. Mr. J. Travis-Cook (“*Story of the De la Poles*,” p. 7 of Index) mentions Holinshed’s reference to Pole, and says “this *may* have been the hamlet of origin of the first De la Pole;” although elsewhere (p. 8), he believes “it is probable that the family was of Welsh extraction.” If, however, any place called Pole had originated the family name we should have had Williams and Richards “de Pole,” but never “de la Pole.”

† “A poor village”—undoubtedly Kilnsea, whereof the cross, now preserved at Hedon, deserves full architectural, historical, and heraldic explanation, and pictorial illustration. If, next year, I am privileged to read my notes on “Lost Towns and Churches of the Yorkshire Coast” to the Hull Literary Club, some slight measure of justice may be done to the Kilnsea cross.

“Touching the folks of the countrie, there came few or none to him. For by the incensing of such as had bin sent into those parts from the erle of Warwike, and other his aduersaries, the people were shrewdlie induced to stand against him. But yet, in respect of the good will that manie of them had borne to his father, they could haue beene content, that he should haue inioied his right to his due inheritance of the duchie of Yorke, but in no wise to the title of the crowne. And herevpon they suffered him to passe, not seeking to annoie him, till they might vnderstand more of his purposed meaning. The king, perceiuing how the people were bent, noised abroad that hee came to make none other chalenge but to his inheritance of the duchie of Yorke: and withall ment to passe first into the citie of Yorke, and so forward towards London, to incounter with his aduersaries that were in the south parts.

“For although his neerest waie had beene through Lincolneshire: yet bicause in taking that waie hee must haue gone againe to the water, in passing ouer Humber; he doubted least it would haue bin thought that he had withdrawne himselfe to the sea for feare. And to auoid the rumors that might haue beene spred theroof, to the hinderance of his whole cause, he refused that waie, and tooke this other, still bruting it (as before we said) that his comming was not to chalenge the crowne, but onelie to be restored vnto his fathers right and inheritance of the duchie of Yorke, which was descended to him from his father. And here it seemed that the colour of iustice hath euer such a force in it selfe amongst all men, that where before few or none of the commons could be found that would offer themselues to take his part: yet now that he did (as they thought) claime nothing but that which was his right, they began streight to haue a liking of his cause.

“And where there were gathered to the number of six or seuen thousand men in diuerse places, vnder the leading chieflie of a priest and of a gentleman called Martine de la Mare,* in purpose to haue stopped his passage: now the same persons tooke occasion to assist him. And when he perceiued mens minds to bee well qualified with this feined deuise, he marched foorth till he came to Beuerlie, which stood in his direct waie as he passed toward Yorke. He sent also to Kingston vpon Hull, distant from thence six miles, willing that he might be there receiued: but the inhabitants, who had bene laboured by his aduersaries, refused in anie wise to grant therevnto.†

* See Appendix.

† Holinshed's *Chronicle*, ed. of 1808, iii., p. 302-1.

THE SITES OF RAVENSER AND RAVENSERODD.



THE READER will naturally ask, Where shall we fix the sites of Ald Ravenser and Ravenserodd? From a passage in the Chronicle of Meaux, quoted on page 11, we know that Ravenserodd was about four miles distant from the town of Easington. Ald Ravenser, as the etymology of the name implies, formed a tongue of land between two waters, which must have been the sea and the Humber. Ravenserodd was a mile away, and was at first an island. In an inquisition which I have quoted from Poulson (see page 22), Ald Ravenser has the adjunct "upon Humber," and is said to adjoin the warrens of Easington and Kilnsea. For the word *warren*, we may now legitimately substitute the word *parish*, since the right of warren was usually, and in these cases unquestionably, co-extensive with the parish. Now as the parish of Easington is divided from that of Kilnsea by the stream or drain known as Long Bank, and therefore adjoins the river no nearer the east than about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the south point of the mainland, it follows that Ald Ravenser was considerably west of the sand bank which connects the mainland with Spurn Head. If we measure four statute miles from Easington church towards Spurn lighthouse, we are at what I might call the shoulder of the sand bank known as the Old Den. In the immediate vicinity of this bank I believe we have the site of Ravenserodd.* Tuke's map of Holderness, which is dated 1787, fixes the

* In digging some few years ago [this written *circa* 1840], on a place within the present Spurn Point called the Old Den, we found ashlar stone, chiseled and laid in lime; seemingly the foundation of some building of note; the heads of the piles also having been found. The Old Den is a singular ridge of gravel, full half a mile long, and not more than seventy or eighty yards broad, and raised about three feet above the mud banks by which it is surrounded. The shape of this ridge is half a circle, the open side facing the shore, and a channel, since my remembrance, between it and the shore, but the north-east end is now warped up. Thirty years ago the bay formed by this singular ridge was the best anchorage, for small vessels, in the Humber, and has been at some former period an excellent port.—William Child, Esq., of Easington, "a gentleman perfectly competent to give an opinion," per Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 540.

site at this point. Probably tradition led Mr. Tuke, or his patron, the Reverend William Dade, to form the opinion of which their engraved map is evidence. I can scarcely believe that either of those gentlemen had read the documents by which alone I have been guided. If, however, both documentary and traditional evidence point to one site, we can, I think, have little hesitation in accepting their testimony. If Ald Ravenser joined the parishes of Easington and Kilnsea to an equal extent, we must draw a line from the shoulder of the Old Den towards the south end of the Long Bank to find its site. That it was a tongue of land, however, requires us to believe that it was nearer the sea, and consequently adjoined Kilnsea to a much greater extent than Easington. We must not overlook the fact that it formed part of the ancient parish of Kilnsea. Taking all these things into consideration, I am disposed to say, that if we measure a mile from what I have assumed to be the site of Ravenserodd, in the direction of Easington church, we must be within a bow shot of the Danish village of Ravenser. Here, also, I am at one with the opinion engraved on Tuke's map.

THARLESTHORP.



OLDERNESS is a land of *thorps*. A *thorp* is a hamlet or village. Tharlesthorp is mentioned in Domesday, where it is called *Toruelestorp*, that is, Thorwald's Thorp, as one of the berewicks of the manor of Patrington. The others were Winestead, Halsham and Thorp (*i.e.*, Welwick Thorp). The whole manor was then in the hands of the archbishop of York. Tharlesthorp afterwards came into the hands of the Frothinghams, from whom it was acquired, probably about 1150, by Robert Constable, the son and heir of Robert Constable of Halsham. The chronicler of Meaux, in his account of the events of the abbacy of abbot Thomas (1182-1197), says,

“Robert Constable also, one of the knights of the earl of Albe-
marl, who, with king Richard, advanced towards the Holy Land [in
1189], old and full of days, sealed with a cross, gave to us 500 acres
of land, that is to say, all his lordship, with a capital messuage in
Tharlesthorp, accepting for the same 160 marks. He also leased to
us all the town of Tharlesthorp, and the town of Halsam, until we
should receive thence those 160 marks which we conferred upon him
for his journey. Now all his brothers, and relatives also, confirmed to
us the many gifts of the said Robert the knight, except his brother
William, who was the eldest after him, but died before him. Yet,
his son Robert, having become the heir of the before-mentioned
Robert his uncle, granted to us that he and his heirs would acquit us
of all services for those lands, except service to the lord paramount
(forinsecum servitium), so far as pertains to five bovates of land of that
fee, whereof eight carucates make a knight's fee. For, whereas 16
bovates of land were reckoned in his whole fee of Tharlesthorp, he
and his heirs for eleven bovates, and we for five, were to render such
service to the lord paramount. Where, forthwith, that capital mes-
suage was called our grange. * * * All which lands in Tharles-
thorp, the aforesaid Sir Robert Constable, senior, acquired from the
ancestors of Peter de Frothyngham. But, because those lands were of
the fee of the archbishop of York, we gave to Galfrid, archbishop
of York, 60 marks, that we might have license to retain them.” *

The crusader never reached the Holy Land. He died at Acon.
The manor of Tharlesthorp yielded to the monks of Meaux, as

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, i., p. 220-1

appears from the accounts of their baker in 1246, out of the arable lands therein, 300 quarters of grain, principally corn.*

During the abbacy of William of Driffeld, from 1249 to 1269, William Constable, son or grandson of the crusader's nephew Robert, sued the monks in reference to their grange of Tharlesthorp, but the third William de Fortibus, earl of Albemarl, supporting their cause, he (Constable) confirmed to them the said grange, free from all manner of service, "except scutage when he shall come."†

During the same abbacy a disastrous flood occurred, of which the chronicler of Meaux gives the following account :

"In that time, the sea inundated and passed over its coasts almost throughout the whole eastern part of England ; *and the Humber, exceeding its limits, covered the land even to our fishery and wood of Cotyngham,*‡ and caused the greatest destruction, both of men and animals, insomuch that in a certain town of this country there died by water not fewer than 36 persons of both sexes, and of every age. Whence we incurred inestimable injury ; for we lost our men and oxen at Orwythfleet, and many of our lands at Saltaghe and Myton, without any recompense, were entirely washed into the Humber. In which places, and also at Tharlesthorp, Sutton, Drypule, and the fishery, we lost all our moveable goods, and nearly all the buildings, besides men and the lower animals. Wherefore those our lands remained almost sterile, and produced us scarcely any fruits. But after that inundation, in process of time, it came to pass that those our lands of Tharlesthorp, Orwythfleet and Saltaghe, near the Humber, by the inundation of the Humber, gradually decreased, so that the water of the Humber entirely took away from us the land of Orwythfleet, consumed the grange of Tharlesthorp, and caused us completely to remove all the buildings of the grange of Saltaghe, that they might be rebuilt further away from the said inundations." §

In 1277, there were 1274 sheep at pasture in Tharlesthorp, and the land is represented as being so rich that the ewes generally brought two lambs.¶

During the abbacy of Richard of Barton, from 1280 to 1286, Robert Sculle, of Tharlesthorp, gave the monks of Meaux the com-

* Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 527.

† *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 90.

‡ The Phillips MS. of the Meaux Chronicle, instead of the italicized words in the text, has :

"and the Humber, exceeding its limits, ascending even to our fishery and wood of Cotyngham, submerged the greatest part of Holderness, and a great part of Herthyll, and caused," etc.

§ *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 91.

¶ Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 528.

mon right of pasture on "le Green" in the town of Tharlesthorp, "which is as the common street or pasture of the aforesaid town, both to lead cattle to and from the same to be pastured, either in going to Est Somerte or returning thence." *

About the same time Stephen de Thorpe, son of Robert de Thorpe, gave the monks all his land in the "Saltynges of Tharlesthorp." †

The same abbot, Richard, granted a lease of the grange of Tharlesthorp for a term of four years. ‡

In Kirkby's Inquest, 13 Edward I (1284-5), the archbishop of York is returned as holding land in Tharlesthorp from the king *in capite*. Avelina, at one time the countess of Albemarl, is returned as having held land there from the archbishop, but her fee was then in the king's hands, because of the said Avelina's death. §

In 21 Edward I. (1292-3), the priory of St. Robert of Knaresborough held lands in Tharlesthorp. ¶

During the abbacy of Roger of Driffild, from 1286 to 1310, "magister" Richard de Ottringham, rector of Shalforth, in the diocese of Ely, the son of "magister" Martin de Ottringham, a priest, and the grandson of Sir Martin de Ottringham, a wealthy burgess of Hedon, founded a chantry at Ottringham, which he endowed with lands which had been given to him by John de Ottringham, his uncle, and heir to his grandfather, Sir Martin. The founder at first intended that the chantry should be supplied by the canons of Bridlington, and applied to the king for license of foundation on this condition. Edward, however, "proposing to acquire as a royal possession, the town of Wyk and the manor of Myton [and on that account, anxious to please the monks of Meaux, to whom these possessions belonged], refused to consent, unless the aforesaid lands and tenements of magister Richard should be given to our monastery for the maintenance of the aforesaid chantry. For the king hoped," continues the Chronicle, "to obtain our more ready consent as to the said town and manor, if we should see him display

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 172.

† *Ibid*, ii., p. 172.

‡ *Ibid*, ii., p. 175.

§ Surtees Society, vol. xlix., p. 77; *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, i., p. 103.

¶ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, i., p. 117.

so much anxiety on our behalf."* The endowment was given to the abbey of Meaux, and the chantry was inaugurated on the 9th August, 1293. It was at first established at Ottringham, on a site afterwards known as Monk Garth. After a period of 24 years it was removed to Meaux. Its history is told by Poulson (*Holderness*, ii., 431) and by Bond (*Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., xxvi). Part of the endowment consisted of 18, or, according to another text of the record, 28 acres of land in Tharlesthorp.†

In 22 Edward I. (1293-4), Sir Simon Constable died seized of four bovates of land in Tharlesthorp.‡

In the same abbot's time, the chronicler of Meaux relates that,

"Peter de Frothyngham, son of William de Frothyngham, made to us a quit claim of our grange of Tharlesthorp, of which the afore-said William took possession at one time by a writ of right. And the said quit claim remains in the custody of Sir John Constable of Halsam, and his heirs, because Sir Robert, his ancestor, had acquired it [*i.e.*, the grange] from the said Peter; and he, the said Sir Robert, and his heirs, are held to warrant us the said grange."§

In the roll of Knight's Fees, held in Yorkshire, in 31 Edward I. (1302-3), Robert Constable is returned as holding in lordship and by service to the king, as well as of the inheritance of the earl of Albemarle, by military service, eight carucates of land in Burton Constable and Tharlesthorp, which, together, made one knight's fee, whereof each carucate contained eight bovates.¶

In 32 Edward I., Peter de la Twyer held a rent of 16d. per annum, issuing from some possession in Tharlesthorp. ||

The abbacy of Adam of Skyrne, from 1310 to 1339, witnessed certain events in the history of Tharlesthorp of very considerable interest. Skyrne's predecessor, Roger of Driffeld, at an early period of his government leased the town of Wyk and the grange of Myton to William de Hamelton, dean of York, and his brother Adam, for a term of 20 years, for the sum of 800 marks. Within a year from the date of the lease, abbot Roger seems to have gleaned some knowledge of Edward the first's intention to make Wyk and Myton the site of a

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 193.

† *Ibid.*, ii., p. 193.

‡ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, i., p. 119.

§ *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 208.

¶ *Surtees Society*, xlix., p. 248.

|| *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, i., p. 188.

royal port. This information made him extremely anxious to recover possession of those properties; doubtless anticipating a handsome price for them from a royal purchaser. By some means he succeeded in obtaining a re-demise of the lands in question for the same sum of 800 marks, with an *ad interim* rent of £100 a year until the purchase money should be repaid. Impatient to attain once more unfettered possession of the estates, the abbot went over to Citeaux, and borrowed from the general chapter of his order 800 marks with which to repay the dean. The loan from Citeaux was to be repaid in 20 annual instalments of 40 marks each. When the 800 marks were offered to the dean and his brother, they refused to accept them, unless the abbot, in addition to that sum and the loss of the profits of Wyk and Myton for the first year, and the payment of the *ad interim* rent for the second year, would undertake to pay £20 a year for the remaining 18 years. The abbot withstood the dean's demand; but after five years had passed the matter was settled by the payment of the original 800 marks to the dean, and, besides undertaking to pay him 100 shillings a year for the term of his life, handing over to him the grange of North Dalton for the same period.*

Of the annual payments to the general chapter of the Cistercians only the first three were made, and when Adam of Skyrne assumed the government of the monastery, 680 marks were still owing. He proposed to pay the balance still due, and 120 marks for interest, in all 800 marks, in four yearly instalments of 200 marks each. His offer, in a modified way, was accepted by the abbot of Citeaux, who, however, demanded payment of 600 marks the first year, and the remaining 200 marks at the end of four years. At this point let us adopt the chronicler's narrative. Towards raising the required 600 marks, he tells us,

"An arrangement was made between us and Peter atte See, a certain burgess and merchant of the town of Ravensere, that for 300 marks to be received from him, we should lease to him our manor of Tharlesthorp, with its appurtenances, for the term of his life and that of his wife, or whichever of them should live the longest. But, when this arrangement was thus agreed upon, but not completed, a certain perverse monk of our house, going to the said Peter, assured him that if, when the said 300 marks should be required from him, and he should

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p. 183-185.

accept the manor of Tharlesthorp, as aforesaid, for his whole life, he should utterly repudiate the arrangement, we, for the necessity of receiving money, should grant the said manor to him for 200 marks, for the term of his life and that of his wife. On which account a certain secret understanding was concluded between the said Peter and the monk aforesaid, that the said Peter should give the aforesaid monk a new gown (habitum), he desiring it. And afterwards, when the abbot expected to receive the said 300 marks from the said Peter, and we were not provided elsewhere with the said money, the said Peter, entirely denying the aforesaid arrangement, refused to advance any money unless we would forego to the said Peter 100 of the aforesaid 300 marks, and he and his wife, nevertheless, should possess the said manor of Tharlesthorp for their whole life. This was carried out. And the aforesaid monk had not yet received the gown promised to him. But when the abbot, with the remaining 100 marks sought for elsewhere, had paid the aforesaid 600 marks to the abbot of Citeaux, the said Peter confessed to our abbot, at his return from Citeaux, all the injury done to him by the said monk, gave the gown which the monk was to have received, with very many other things and commodities, in part satisfaction of those 100 marks, impressing upon himself so far as he could to guard against such deceptive actions. But after three years, the said Peter and his wife died, leaving our said manor of Tharlesthorp to us in peace." *

In the *Nomina Villarum* of Yorkshire, compiled in 9 Edward II. (1315-16), Robert Constable and Walter Fauconberg are returned as lords of Tharlesthorp.†

In 8 Edward III. (1334-5), William de la Twyer died seized of lands in Tharlesthorp.‡

In 10 Edward III. (1336-7), Sir Robert Constable, of Halsham, died seized of one windmill, eight tofts and four bovates of land in Tharlesthorp.§

We have already, in our account of the chapel of Ravenserodd, seen that when, during the abbacy of Hugh of Leven, the monks petitioned for the appropriation of the rectory of Easington, they set forth, as a reason for the grant, the loss they had sustained by the destruction of lands in Tharlesthorp and other places (see page 46, above).

During the same abbacy, the monks secured for themselves the appropriation of the church of Kayingham, but, to complete this

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ii., p., 811-2.

† *Surtees Society*, xlix., p. 805.

‡ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, ii. p. 61.

§ *Rotulorum Originalium in Curia Scaccari Abbreviatio*, ii., p. 114. *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, ii., p. 73.

transaction, were under the necessity of appealing to Sir Robert de Hylton, of Swine, for money. He gave them 140 marks, in return for which they founded a chantry in the church of Fowlstowe, in Lincolnshire, for the celebration of mass for Sir Robert's soul, and the souls of his ancestors. The chantry was to be maintained by an annual payment of five marks out of the abbey's manors of Saltagh, Waghon and Tharlesthorp.*

In 14 Edward III. (1342-3), Ralph de Bulmere, John de Sutton, John de Meaux, Thomas de Burton and Thomas de Cayton, were appointed to view and repair the banks, etc., on the coast of the Humber, in the towns of Frismersh, Tharlesthorpe, Kayngham, Ryel, Burton Pidse and Halsham. Two years later a similar commission, including, however, the banks on the sea coast of Holderness, was issued to Robert de Hilton, William L'engleys, John de Constable, of Halsham, and Walter de Waldegrave.†

In 23 Edward III. (1349-50), Sir John Constable, of Halsham, died seized of various lands and tenements in Tharlesthorp.‡

During the first abbacy of William of Dringhowe, from 1349 to 1353, a suit was instituted and tried at Hedon, in which the inhabitants of Tharlesthorp were amongst the defendants. The following is the chronicler's record of the case :

"In the meantime presentation was made at Hedon that the villagers of Otringham, Tharlesthorp, and Frysmersk are bound to repair a certain bridge called Potterbrygge, near Potterfleet, between Otringham and Tharlesthorp, which was defective, and that the abbot of Thornton and the abbot of Meaux ought to find timber for the repair of the aforesaid bridge. Which villagers, on the opposite side, disputing the said presentation, on the second appointed day, at Hedon, before the justices appointed to this matter, replied that they had sufficiently repaired the said bridge by land (*per terram*)§ and by their manual labour. But they asserted that the said bridge was altogether defective, in that the aforesaid abbots of Thornton and Meaux had not found the timber for the construction of the said bridge, as in law they were accustomed and are bound to do. And concerning this matter they put themselves upon their country. Wherefore a day was appointed for further hearing. On which day the said abbots came, and being separately asked in what manner they wished to acquit themselves

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 18-19.

† Dugdale's *Imbanking and Draining*, 2d. Ed., p. 180.

‡ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, ii., p. 153.

§ That is, I suppose, so far as its abutments were concerned.

concerning the premises, separately replied that they were not bound to find timber for the aforesaid bridge. The abbot of Thornton also said that he had certain lands and tenements in the town of Otringham, for which he was bound to make and repair at his own proper cost a tenth part of one half of the aforesaid bridge towards the west, and no more; which part was sufficiently repaired. But our abbot of Meaux also said that for the lands and tenements which he had in Tharlesthorp, he was bound to make and repair, at his own proper cost, a fourth part of half of the aforesaid bridge towards the east, and no more; which part was sufficiently constructed and repaired. And concerning this matter, each of them put himself upon his country. Wherefore the jurors chosen for this matter said upon their oath that the aforesaid abbots (that is to say, the abbot of Thornton a tenth part of one half of the aforesaid bridge towards the west, and our abbot of Meaux a fourth part of half of the aforesaid bridge towards the east) ought to construct so much, at their own proper cost in all things, and no more; and the adjacent villagers were bound to construct the remaining portion of the aforesaid bridge in all things." *

This passage contains the only mention of either Potterfleet or Potterbrigg which occurs in the Chronicle of Meaux. †

After this we hear nothing more of Tharlesthorp till the abbacy of John of Rysley, from 1353 to 1356. Then commences the story of its destruction. "In the meantime," says the chronicler of Meaux,

"When the water of the Humber, by its flood-like inundations, had wasted our land of Tharlesthorp, and we were known to be little able, at that time, without extraneous help, on account of other misfortunes hanging over us, to bear the maintenance and repair of those banks which defended our land and the adjacent land of others towards the interior, we endeavoured in full wapentake (in pleno wapentagio)‡ to secure assistance from the possessors of lands adjacent to our said land, for the defence of our lands and of theirs. But they,

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 80-82.

† Potterfleet, and Potterfleet bridge, however, are mentioned in an inquisition as to the drainage of Holderness, held at Skipsea, on the 19th October, 1867.

"Also, there is another [sewer] called Commerfleit, which extends itself from the field of Winestead even to Potterfleith Haven, and ought to be twelve foot broad. * * * Also, there is a certain wall of Humber in the village of Ottringham, called Monasedike, and lies in length from Potterfleith Haven even to Merksnenladike, containing forty-seven cord which is not repaired, of which forty-seven cord the abbot of Thornton ought to repair twenty-three cord, and the prior of Bridlington, twenty-two cord, etc. * * * Also, there is a certain sewer which extends in length from England Sand even to Potterfleith Bridge, etc." England Sand is Sand Hill, between Rimswell and Waxholme.—See Poulson's *Holderness*, i., 119-192.

‡ A wapentake is a division of a county, equal to a hundred. But here it clearly means some kind of court. The Chronicle of Meaux in one place speaks of a person being *fatigatus*, "per summonitiones diversas ad assisas, sessiones et wapintagia" (iii., p. 144). Poulson also states that in 41 Edward III., Peter Moijs, of Bond-Burstwick, held the manor of Bond-Burstwick, doing suit every three weeks at the wapentake court of Holderness (*Holderness* ii., 855)

being anxious to bring our lands to irrecoverable extermination, yet desiring to defend their own lands, made a new embankment (valvam), between our lands and theirs, for the defence of their lands, so that at all events our land only might be destroyed before the said water of Humber would display its force against their new bank. We therefore undertook alone a new and burdensome work in the construction of a new embankment (valvam), at no small costs ; making the said embankment between the town of Tharlesthorp and our grange, which was situated between the said town of Tharlesthorp and the water of the Humber. The site of which, with the greater part of our land there, shortly after the construction of that new bank, was washed into the Humber, and was irrecoverably wasted." *

In 35 Edward III. (1361-2), James de Roos held one bovaté of land in Tharlesthorp.†

In 41 Edward III. (1367-8), John de Fauconberg held various lands and tenements in Tharlesthorp.‡

During the abbacy of William of Scarborough the story of destruction is continued. That abbot leased the abbey grange of Saltaghe, with all the pastures there, to a certain John Frankys, for a certain term of years. The abbot's sheep, more than 400 in number, were removed to Sutton, where they all died in consequence of change of pasture. But the loss sustained by the monks did not end here. In one of the saddest passages, though at the same time one of the most interesting, in the Chronicle of Meaux, the writer tells us that,

"In the first year of the aforesaid lease, in the autumn, with a most violent wind blowing continually for two days and nights, the sheaves and stacks (acervi) of corn, pease (pisarum) and hay, were blown away by that wind anywhere, into the Humber, [and] the drains and the lands of others, so that scarcely anything was found uninjured on our soil. * * * The river of Humber also, in like manner, inundated [the land] to such an extent that, passing beyond its channel, and from the contrary direction, with an impelling wind, beating against the sea walls of the said grange, it formed two very large gulleys, so that the course of the water ebbed and flowed there horribly for two days and nights ; whence all the surrounding district, so covered by the billows, appeared more like sea than land. Therefore, the aforesaid John, borne down by these difficulties, mournfully hastened to the monastery, and surrendered that grange thus devastated. Wherefore the said abbot, going thither, and gathering together a great multitude of labourers from every side, with great costs and expenses, soon got the

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 102-3.

† *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, ii., p. 241.

‡ *Ibid.*, ii., p. 280.

better of the waters, and within a short time blocked up the aforesaid gulleys, and repaired the embankment of the Humber, so that, within ten days, in the wages of the labourers alone, besides victuals, the expenses exceeded 20 marks ; and, none the less, that grange and the pastures were in this way destitute of corn and oxen, and horribly inundated, and our lands there for a long time after that remained worthless. The inundations of the Humber also miserably consumed all our lands of Tharlesthorp, even to the site of our grange there. Wherefore we caused all the houses built in the said grange to be removed, and to be re-built at the rectory of Kayngham, the grange of Otringham, and other places of ours, the site of that grange [of Tharlesthorp] (alas, how sad !) being left uninhabitable. But we, nevertheless, making a new embankment through the midst of our lands, leased those our remaining lands to certain farmers, for the term of 20 years, for 60 quarters of corn a year. But when all our lands of Tharlesthorp remained entire, we had more than 11 bovates of land there in independant right, but then four bovates of land were all that were left there, for which the said 60 quarters of corn were to be yearly paid. Nevertheless, those lands, about the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul [25 January], anno Domini 1393, and also the lands at Saltaghe, by the irruptions and reverberations of the embankments against the water of the Humber [*sic*], by that water of the Humber were totally inundated. Wherefore the aforesaid lands, and especially those at Tharlesthorp, which had been previously sown with corn, were again prepared, and were re-sown with other grain the same year. Wherefore, in consequence of the whole loss of the farm of the place aforesaid for that year, we provided embankments there anew, and let the same lands to the said farmers for another term of 20 years, on the condition that they should pay us 40 quarters of grain yearly, and bear half of all the costs incurred in the construction of the said new embankment. But from the time of the destruction of our grange there all free access to our lands there was closed against us. Wherefore, there was no free ingress or egress there, except across the soil of others, and for this a very good price had to be paid." *

In 5 Richard II. (1381-2), Sir Robert de Roos, of Gedeney, held one bovat of land in Tharlesthorp, and in 20 Richard II. (1396-7), Nicholas Roos, priest, probably Sir Robert's son, held a bovat and a half of land there.†

The history of the abbacy of Thomas Burton, from 1396 to 1399, still continues the record of desolation. The chronicler speaks of "the habitual inundations of the Humber" having miserably wasted the abbey lands at Tharlesthorp, and tells us that the abbot renewed the sea wall, but reduced the rent to 20 quarters of corn a year on the

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 182-5.

† *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, iii., pp. 89, 207.

condition that the tenants should maintain the said sea walls. "But," he continues,

'Not long afterwards, the very site of our grange of Tharlesthorp, by the continued beating back of the Humber, was entirely blotted out, and the annual farm-rent itself, of 20 quarters of corn, annulled. And so, that grange, which at one time supplied our monastery with many commodities, is now hopelessly carried away by the returning floods.' *

In the Hedon inquisition of 1401, the total annual value of the destroyed lands in Tharlesthorp, which had belonged to the abbey of Meaux, was estimated at £123 1s. 6d.

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, iii., p. 243.

FRISMERSK.



ERSK is an old form of the word marsh. Thus in the Chronicle of Meaux we read of Kayngham-mersk (ii., 191) and Otringham-mersk (iii., 243), the former of which is elsewhere called the "mariscus de Kayngham" (i., 87). The word *fris* is the adjective *fresh*; so that the place name, instead of being, as Isaac Taylor would have us believe, an evidence of some Frisian settlement, merely means the "fresh marsh."

Frismersk is not mentioned in Domesday. The earliest mention of the place which I have discovered occurs in the Chronicle of Meaux, from which we learn that during the government of Hugh, the fifth abbot, from 1210 to 1220, John, the son of Peter de Melsa, gave to the abbey, *ad luminare privatarum missarum*,* the homage and service of Odo, son of Thetard, and his heirs, from two bovates of land in Frismarisco.†

Amongst the endowments of the chantry founded at Ottringham, in 1293, by Richard de Ottringham (see page 68), were 18 acres of land in Frysmersk.‡

In 31 Edward I. (1302-3), John de Passemere, and Clementina, his wife, held 20 acres of meadow land in Frisemarys.§

In 32 Edward I. (1303-4), Peter de la Twyer held four bovates and a half of land and a water mill in Frisemerays.¶

In 5 Edward II. (1311-12), William Sturmy, and Alice, his wife, held one messuage, 14 acres of land, ten acres of meadow and eight parts of a mill in Freskmersk. ||

* "For the light of private masses." That is, to furnish the candle or candles required. "Private mass is said in a private oratory on any day, by a priest who alone celebrates, and with, perhaps, a single assistant."—Walcott's *Sacred Archaeology*, p. 368.

† *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, i., p. 361.

‡ *Ibid*, ii., p. 193.

§ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, i., p. 179.

¶ *Ibid*, i., p. 188; Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 191.

|| *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, i., p. 247.

In the *Nomina Villarum* of Yorkshire, compiled in 9 Edward II. (1315-16), the archbishop of York is described as lord of Frismersk.*

On the 9th September, 1324, at Burton, near Beverley [*i.e.*, Bishop Burton], Richard, the son of William Sturmy, did homage and fealty to the archbishop of York for the lands and tenements which he held from him in the towns of Coldon and Frismareys in Holderness.†

In the reign of Edward III., we find a family of Constable settled at Frismersk, of which the pedigree, printed by Poulson (*Holderness*, i., p. 437), begins with Sir John Constable, of Frismarsh, who was said to be descended from Roaldus Constable, of Richmond. Sir John's descendants, in one line, remained at Frismersk for six generations, terminating with Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Constable, of Frismarsh, who died in the reign of Henry VIII. This Elizabeth married Thomas Constable, of Catfoss, a direct descendant of Sir John, the founder of the Frismersk family, and so her distant relative. A deed executed 19 Edward III. (1345-6), by Fulco Constable, of Freshmarsh, is witnessed by Thomas de Percy, of Freshmarsh, and others.

In 8 Edward III. (1334-5), William de la Twyer held lands in Frismershe.‡

In 11 Edward III. (1337-8), Alice, the wife of Peter de la Twyer held an annual rent of 40s. from property in Frismershe.§

When, during the abbacy of Hugh of Leven (1339-1349), the monks of Meaux petitioned archbishop Zouch for the appropriation of Easington church, amongst the places at which they had lost land by floods and inundations, they mentioned Frysmerske (see page 46, above).

We have already seen that in 14 Edward III. (1342-3), commissioners were appointed to view the river banks of Frismershe and other places (see page 72, above).

In 18 Edward III. (1344), the inhabitants of Frismerk, "by petition to the king and his counsel in parliament, exhibit and complain; that their lands were often overflowed by the tides of

* Surtees Society, xlix., p. 305.

† Ibid, p. 416.

‡ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, ii., p. 61.

Ibid, ii., p. 79.

Humbre ; and that they had been at a constant and very great charge for the safeguard of them, so that they could not pay such taxes and impositions as they had done, being less able to maintain their said banks for preservation of their town, than formerly : and therefore humbly besought him ; that, taking the premises into consideration, he would command, that the Fifteen then granted to him in parliament by the commonalty of this realm, for two years ensuing ; as also all other assessments for the future, might be rated according to the value of the goods and chattels, which they then had in that town. Whereupon the king, compassionating their condition, assigned Michael de Wathe, John de Constable of Hasham, Robert de Sprotle clerk, and John Sturmy, his commissioners to enquire thereof.* An inquisition was accordingly taken, of which the following is a translation :

“Inquisition taken at Frisemersk on Monday next after the feast of St. Dionysius [9 October], in the 18th year of the reign of king Edward the third after the Conquest, before Michael de Wath and John Sturmy, by virtue of the commission of the lord the king, directed to them, and attached to this inquisition, by the oath of Galfrid de Redmar, John de Northorp, John Rolland, Stephen de Neuton, Roger Rolland, John in le Croft, Nicholas Suthibi, Nicholas de Thorn, William Seriaunt, Robert Friboys, John Brokour, and John, son of William de Frothingham, who say, upon their oath, that the men of the town of Frismersk were often before the present time inundated by the water of the Humber, and from day to day are so inundated, and that the third part and more of the lands and tenements of the said town has been totally destroyed by the ebb and flow of the said water. They say also that the aforesaid men have often borne inestimable expenses for the defence of the said town, and do not cease from time to time to bear them, which costs the said men are no longer able to endure. They say also that the men of the said town are not able to pay the taxes, tolls and various other burdens contingent to the said town, as beforetime they have paid them, and at the same time effect such defence [as is needed]. In testimony of which the aforesaid jurors have affixed their seal to this inquisition. Given at Frismersk, the day and year aforesaid.”†

“The king therefore deeming it not consonant to right, that they [the inhabitants of Frismersk] should be unduly charged in any Tenths, Fifteens, or other assessments, for their lands so wasted and destroyed, directed his precept to the assessors and collectors of the

* Dugdale, *Imbanking and Draining*, 2d. ed., p. 181.

† *Inquisitiones ad quod Damnum*, 18 Ed. III., no. 61.

Tenth and Fifteens, granted to him by the said commonalty of this realm * * * ; requiring them, that, having farther information touching the value of the moveables, which they then had in that town, they should assess them accordingly.

“By virtue of which precept the said inhabitants of Frismerk, being assessed at 26s. 8d. per annum, for each of the said two years ; the king sent his mandate to the Barons of his Exchequer, requiring them, that in that Fifteenth, nor the like for the future to be granted, they should not be rated at any greater sum.

“The like mandate was also directed to the collectors of wools, for the Est Rithing of this county, for a proportionable abatement to the inhabitants of the said town of Frismerk, upon the same considerations.” *

The remedy thus afforded to the people of Frismersk was but of a temporary character. We consequently find them three years later petitioning the king and his council for further relief from taxation.† Whether any action was taken on the petition I do not know.

In our account of Tharlesthorp we have seen that the people of Frismersk were amongst the inhabitants of this part of Holderness who were held responsible for the repair of Potterbrigg (see page 72).

In 23 Edward III. (1349-50), Roger Gilt de Sprotle held one bovat of land in Frysmerske.‡

On the 5th November, 1373, archbishop Thoresby granted to William Graa, citizen of York, and “Sir” Robert de Wyclif, parson of the church of the Holy Cross in York, wardship of the body and marriage of John, son of John Langton, of York, deceased, together with the lands and tenements in Frismersk and other places, of which he was heir.§

On the 30th November, 1372, at Thorp, near York, William de Kelk did homage to the archbishop of York for lands and tenements which he held of him in the town of Frismersk.¶

* Dugdale, *Imbanking and Draining*, p. 181; *Rotulorum Originalium in curia Scacoari Abbreviatio*, ii., p. 188.

† *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, ii., p. 187.

‡ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, ii., p. 157.

§ *Surtees Society*, xlix., p. 430.

¶ *Ibid.*, xlix., p. 421.

In the Hedon inquisition of 1401, the annual value of the lands of the abbey of Meaux, which had been destroyed in Frismersk, was assessed at £4 8s.

It remains to discuss the sites of Tharlesthorp and Frismersk. Both places were within the parish of Patrington. Both were separated from the parish of Ottringham by a stream called Potterfleet, which was spanned somewhere in its course by a bridge known as Potterbrigg. Tharlesthorp could only adjoin the parish of Ottringham on its south side. On this side the parish is now bounded by Sunk Island. It follows, therefore, that Sunk Island occupies, to some extent, the sites of Tharlesthorp and Frismersk. No trace of Sunk Island can be found on the maps of Saxton (1577), Speed (1610), Jansen (1640), and Bleau (1645). It first appeared above the water about the middle of the 17th century. In Morden's excellent map (1700) it is represented as an island with a stream more than its own width between itself and the mainland. In Bowen's map (1767), it is still shown as being at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the actual coast. Jefferys's map (1771), till its time the most accurate and beautiful map of Yorkshire which had been issued, gives the width of the river between the island and the shore as a little more than a mile. Bryant's map of 1827-8, shows the channel as being reduced to the dimensions of a drain. Since that time the increment has been entirely on the east side of the island, and consists in the silting up of a triangular shaped piece of ground, which lies outside the old embankment. Sunk Island, however, represents the sites of Frismersk and Tharlesthorp. Whether the island is larger than these places were, or *vice versa*, it is impossible to say. Frismersk, I think there can be no doubt, was on the east of Tharlesthorp. Tuke's map places its site a little east of Patrington Haven; that is, at a point occupied now by the most recently acquired portion of Sunk Island.

Potterfleet is evidently first of all the name of a stream.* That some farmstead or hamlet afterwards sprung up to which the same

* "The words *flood*, *fleet*, and *float* come from the Anglo-Saxon verb *fleotan*, to float or swim. A *fleet* is either that which is afloat, or a place where vessels can float—that is, a channel, or where water fleets or runs."—Isaac Taylor, *Words and Places*, 8rd ed., p. 184. "Fleet is the Icelandic *fljót*, Anglo-Saxon *fleót*, synonymous with river; equivalent, says

name was given is extremely probable. Indeed, the description of Potterbrigg as "juxta Potterfleet," would be scarcely applicable to its proximity to the stream. The portion of the south boundary of the parish of Ottringham, which, before the formation of Sunk Island was a river-side boundary, is not more than a mile and a quarter in length. This boundary, which is now called the North Channel, probably represents the course of Potterfleet. Now before the formation of the present modern road from Ottringham to Sunk Island, there was a slightly more irregular road which came down to the river bank at, or very near, the point at which the modern road comes to the North Channel. This older road was evidently formed as a way to some place which had been washed into the Humber. It was, therefore, the road from Ottringham to Tharlesthorp. If then, the North Channel really represents the course of Potterfleet, it follows that the site of Potterbrigg is almost, if not exactly, occupied by what is known as North Channel Bridge.

The monks of Meaux had the right of way across Tharlesthorp village green to East Somerte, and the right of pasturing their cattle thereon, either in going or returning. Nothing whatever is known of this place, and I have met with no mention of it, except in the passage in the Chronicle of Meaux, quoted on page 68. The name, I think, means "the summer enclosure."

Cleasby, to the Latin *Ostium*, and if so, meaning the entrance or mouth of a river, or tributary. On the coast, and tidal rivers, the turn of the tide at low water, is locally called the flood. All the *fleets* in the East Riding are on the Ouse (??), which is a tidal river beyond highest, Stillingfleet."—Rev. E. M. Cole, *On Scandinavian Place Names*, p. 10.

SUNTHORP.



HE LITTLE that is known of Sunthorp is soon told. In an account of knight's fees in Holderness, compiled during the latter part of the reign of Henry III., it is stated that in Sunthorp "there are 16 bovates of land." *

In Kirkby's Inquest (1284-5), Thomas de Sunthorp is returned as holding one carucate of land in Sunthorp, whereof 48 carucates made a knight's fee.

In 12 Edward II. (1318-9), the king issues a writ to Ralph de Crophull, his escheator beyond Trent, commanding him that, because he has learned by inquisition that Walter, son of Peter de atte See (*sic*), deceased, on the day on which he died held one messuage and two bovates of land, with their appurtenances, of the king *in capite*, as of the honour of Albemarl, by military service, and that John, his heir, is of the age of eight years, he should retain these lands as in the king's hands during the king's pleasure.†

In 18 Edward II. (1324-5), Robert Julian de Sketlyng, died seized of four bovates of land in Sunthorp.‡ In the following year, a writ was issued by the king to Simon de Grymmesby, commanding him to hold certain lands which belonged to Robert Julian of Skeftelyng, deceased, in consequence of the minority of the heir, amongst which a rent of 4 shillings, from property in Sunthorp, held of the king as of the honour of Albemarl, by military service, is mentioned.§

In 23 Edward III. (1349-50), John, son of Walter atte See, died seized of two bovates of land in Sunthorp.¶

All that we know of the site of Sunthorp we learn from a passage

* Surtees Society, xlix., p. 375.

† *Abbreviatio Rotulorum Originalium*, i., p. 248.

‡ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, i., p. 317.

§ *Abbreviatio Rotulorum Originalium*, i., p. 293.

¶ *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem*, ii., p. 149.

which I have quoted from the Chronicle of Meaux (page 11, above), which mentions that this town, as well as the town of Kilnse and the manor of Ald Ravenser, lay between the towns of Esyngton and Ravenserodd.

PENISTHORP.



THE FIRST mention of Penisthorp which I have discovered, occurs in an account of knight's fees in Holderness, drawn up in the latter part of the reign of Henry III., in which 20 bovates of land in Thorpe and Penythorpe are enumerated.*

From Kirkby's Inquest we learn that William de Chestrunt, held in Holmeton, Peningthorp, Little Kelk, Haitfeld and Preston, ten carucates and four bovates of land.†

In 10 Edward II. (1316-17), the prior of Bolton, in Craven, held land and rents here which had been given to that house by William de Malghum and Alice, his wife.‡

In 11 Edward II. (1317-18), John de Holam held here, *in capite*, a capital messuage, and three oxgangs of land of the king, as of the honour of Albemarle. §

In 12 Edward II. (1318-19), Randolph, son and heir of John Holym, of Penysthorp, deceased, did homage to the king for all the lands and tenements in Penysthorp which the said John, his father, held of the king *in capite*. ¶

The commission appointed in 14 Edward III. (1342-3), to view the banks of the Humber (see page 72, above) included those within the township of Penysthorp. ||

In 28 Edward III. (1354-5), John, son of Randolph de Pensthorp (doubtless the individual previously styled Randolph, son of John Holym), held five bovates of land here.* *

* Surtees Society, xlix., p. 376.

† Ibid, p. 76.

‡ *Calendarium Chartarum Originalium*, p. 252; Burton's *Monasticon Eboracense* p. 118.

§ Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 518.

¶ Ibid, p. 518.

|| Dugdale's *Imbanking and Drainage*, 2d ed. p. 130.

* * Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 518.

In 21 Henry VIII. (1529-30), Thomas Hansey held here a messuage of the king *in capite* as of his manor of Burstwick. *

A farmstead, with a few surrounding houses, known as Pensthorp, near the river bank, and a little to the east of Welwick Drain, existed till recent times. The site of Penisthorp was no doubt in the immediate vicinity of this farm.

* *Ibid*, p. 518.

ORWITHFLEET.



HIS PLACE, which is sometimes called Withfleet, is mentioned at an early period in the Chronicle of Meaux. In the time of Alexander, the fourth abbot, who governed the monastery from 1197 to 1210, we read that,

“Osbert de Frismarisco [Frismersk] gave unto us all the land of Orwythfleet, in the territory of Pensthorp, for 28 shillings, to be annually paid to him and his heirs * * * . Yet the said Osbert, M his mother, and the brothers of the said Osbert, in relation to the possession of the said land, and also in relation to other possessions which we had of the fee of the said Osbert, afterwards unjustly troubled us. On which account he was summoned by us to the apostolic seat. But the said Osbert, on his part, went to the apostolic seat, and procured certain apostolic letters against us from the delegated judges. Yet, afterwards, the said Osbert, with the apostolic letters, in the presence of the host, renounced [his claim], and added [a provision] that neither he, nor anyone on his part, should ever procure any letters in relation to the beforementioned land, to our prejudice or injury, either from the lord the pope, the king, or any other person. Wherefore, the said Osbert made a confirmation of all the lands which we had of his fee, and expressly [named] all that land of Orwythfleet, for the payment to him of the aforesaid 28 shillings a year; and caused us to have the confirmation thereof of the great lord [of the seignior] and of all his [own] brothers. But he himself, having become a novice amongst us, during his novitiate, commended his body to the earth [*i.e.*, he died.]” *

During the abbacy of Michael de Brun, who governed the abbey from 1235 to 1249, the Chronicle records that,

“Sir John de Fryboys, knight, who became a novice amongst us, gave us the homage and service of Sir Peter de Frothyngham, knight, and a yearly rent of 42 shillings from land in Wythfleet.” †

After this, we hear nothing of Orwithfleet till the abbacy of William of Driffeld, from 1249 to 1269, when the Chronicle of Meaux relates a curious series of transactions, in which the monks' possessions here were involved. Isabella, the daughter and heir of

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, i., p. 302-3.

† *Ibid*, ii., p. 28.

Walter de Hedon, held of the monks certain tenements in Halsam at a yearly rent of 10 shillings. She died, or, as the Chronicle expresses it, "entered the way of all flesh," leaving her daughter, Beatrice, her sole heir, who, though still a minor, had already married John, son of Godfrey de Meaux. The monks were entitled to custody of the lands in Halsam during the minority of Beatrice, but demised them to her father-in-law, for the remaining term of that minority, for a yearly payment of 36 shillings, in addition to the customary rent of 10 shillings. But Beatrice de Meaux was also the heir of Osbert de Frysmarisco, and, consequently, to her the monks owed a yearly rent of 28 shillings. This amount Godfrey de Meaux deducted, each year of her minority, from the sum of 46 shillings due from him to the monks, paying them thus a clear rent of 18 shillings. After the heiress had attained her majority the larger sum was due from the monks, and for a time they continued to pay her and her heirs 18 shillings a year. The reason of their ceasing at a later period to pay this rent we shall learn presently.*

During the same abbacy, the chronicler informs us that the monks had no free ingress and egress to lead their oxen to and from their land of Orwythfleet, except by the permission of others. On this account they made an agreement with Ralph de Wellewyk, for a rent of six pence per annum, and with Richard de Frysmersk, for two shillings per annum, that they should have free ingress and egress through those persons' territory in leading and re-leading their animals and cattle, and in conveying to and fro all other necessities in waggons and carts. "But," adds the chronicler, "because those our lands are altogether lost, those rents, as well as the lands, have expired." †

The loss of the abbey's men and cattle at this place by the inundations of the Humber during the same abbacy has been recorded under Tharlesthorp (see page 67).

The chronicler of Meaux records the total loss of the abbey's lands in Orwythfleet, during the abbacy of Adam of Skyrne, from 1310 to 1339. "Our land of Orwythfleet, in the territory of Pens-

* *Ibid*, ii., p. 88-9.

† *Ibid*, ii., p. 90.

thorp," he says, "which was a pasture, containing about 33 acres of land, for which we were accustomed to pay 28 shillings a year to Sir John de Melsa and his ancestors, was entirely lost in the Humber." The abbot refused to continue paying the rent, which, as we have seen, after deducting a payment due to the monks from the same Sir John de Meaux, amounted to 18 shillings a year. The abbey, however, demanded the payment of the rent due to them for their possessions in Halsam, which Sir John de Meaux refused. Ultimately the matter was referred to the arbitration of Sir Thomas de Wake, lord of Cotyngham, Sir John de Sutton, and others. The contending parties met the arbitrators at Cotyngham. Their decision was that the abbey should be free from the payment of any rent for their lost land in Orwythfleet, unless some part of it should in the future be reclaimed, in which case the monks were to pay a proportionate rent according to the amount of land recovered from the river. Sir John de Melsa was to continue to pay the rent of 10 shillings per annum for his possessions in Halsam.*

Poulson quotes from the chartulary of Meaux, a statement that in 9 Edward II. (1315-16), the abbey lands in Orwithfleet pastured 300 sheep, contained $46\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow, and were worth £9 6s. per annum.†

In the Hedon inquisition of 1401 the annual value of lands of the abbey of Meaux, which had been destroyed in Wythfflete, was assessed at £9 6s.

* Ibid, ii., p. 300-1.

† Poulson's *Holderness*, ii., p. 518.

APPENDIX.

THE VALUE OF THE CONSUMED LANDS OF THE ABBAY OF MEAUX.

I have referred on page 41 to the efforts made by the abbot of Meaux to secure exemption for his submerged lands from a subsidy granted to Richard II. When this claim was first made it was allowed by the convocation of York on the archbishop's certificate. The prior of Warter was appointed to collect the subsidy, but before the collection was completed the archbishop (Waldby) died. The king commanded the new archbishop (Scrope) to report the proceedings which had been taken in relation to the grant of the subsidy. In his return, the archbishop made special reference to the exception, granted by his predecessor, of the consumed lands and possessions in Holdernes and Merskland belonging to the monasteries of the Blessed Mary of York, St. Germanus of Selby and St. Mary of Meaux. No exception was made in favour of the spiritualities of the monastery of Meaux; and, consequently, when the prior of Warter was again appointed to collect the subsidy, the monks deducted what they considered a proportionate sum for their destroyed lands. The officers of the exchequer refused to allow any abatement for spiritualities which had been consumed. At this point, the process was stayed by the political events of the period, and before it was re-commenced, the then abbot of Meaux, Thomas Burton, had resigned. Soon after the appointment of his successor a writ was directed to the sheriff of Yorkshire commanding him to distrain the convent for the unpaid portion of the subsidy. The monks paid the sheriff a fee, and entered into a bond to pay the sum demanded at a given time. The abbot then pleaded at the exchequer for a writ of enquiry concerning the destruction of the abbey lands by inundations. Such a writ was in consequence addressed to the archbishop of York. The archbishop appointed Antony de St. Quintin, rector of Hornesse, William de Retherby, rector of Wynestede, and John de Wynertorpe, dean of Beverley, to make the required inquisition. The inquisition was "taken at Hedon on the 10th January, 1400 [*i.e.*, 1401], by the oaths of 12 priests and 12 laymen, sworn and examined upon the stated articles contained in the aforesaid brief:

"Who say upon their oath that all the lands [and] possessions mentioned below were the lands and possessions of our monastery of Meaux, and pertaining to our said monastery, and acquired before the time of making of the new tax; taxed also to the tenth with the clergy according to the making the said new tax, and accustomed to be taxed with the clergy in all taxations and grants granted to the lord the king. And which lands and possessions, after the said new tax was made, and before the last grant of one moiety of a tenth, in the time of king Richard, by the inundations and overflowings of the sea, of the Humber and of other streams in Holdernes, were totally wasted

and consumed, and so remain ; that is to say, in the town of Tharles-thorpe there were 321 acres of arable land, of which each acre of land was worth per annum, at the time of the said new taxation, 4s. 6d. Amount, £72 4s. 6d. Item, in the same town were 100 acres of meadow, of which each acre, at the time of the said new taxation, was worth per annum, 4s. 6d. Amount, £22 10s. Item, in the same town were 152 acres of pasture, of which each acre, at the time of the said new taxation, was worth per annum, 3s. 6d. Amount, £26 12s. Item, in the same town on the site of the manor, were four messuages, which were worth per annum, besides reprises, at the time of the said new taxation, 35s. Wherefore, the total amount of the aforesaid amounts, reached £123 1s. 6d. All and every of which after the making of the said new taxation, by the overflowings of the water of the Humber, and of other streams in Holderness, were wasted and consumed. In Saltagh were 120 acres of meadow, of which each acre was worth per annum, 4s. 6d. Amount, £27. Item, there were there 162 acres and a half of pasture, of which each acre was worth per annum, 3s. 6d. Amount, £24 18s. 9d. Total amount, £51 18s. 9d. Which acres of meadow and pasture also, after the said new taxation, by the overflowings and inundations of the said water of the Humber and of other streams in Holderness, were wasted and destroyed. In Wythfflete, were 46 acres and a half of meadow, of which each acre was worth per annum, 4s. Amount, £9 6s. Of which all and every acre, by similar overflowings of the water of the Humber, and of other streams in Holderness, after the making of the said new taxation, were wasted and destroyed. Item, in the town of Frysmersk, were 22 acres of arable land, of which each acre was worth per annum, 4s. Amount, £4 8s. Of which all and every acre, by the inundations and overflowings of the said water of the Humber and of other streams in Holderness, were similarly, after the making of the said new taxation, destroyed and consumed. Item, in the town of Ravenserodd were 24 messuages, which were worth per annum, besides reprises, £13 16s. All and every of which, by the overflowings and consumptions of the sea and of the water of the Humber, after the making of the said new taxation, were wasted and destroyed. Item, in the town of Dymelton were 55 acres of arable land, of which each acre was worth per annum, 2s. 6d. Amount, £6 17s. 6d. All and every of which acres of land, by the overflowings of the aforesaid waters, after the making of the said new taxation, were totally wasted and destroyed and consumed. Item, in the town of Grymeston were 21 acres of arable land, of which each acre was worth per annum, 2s. Amount, £2 2s. Which, with other possessions, were similarly entirely destroyed and consumed after the making of the said new taxation. Item, in the town of Hornseburton were 27 acres of arable land, of which each acre was worth per annum, 2s. Amount, £2 14s. Of which all, etcetera. Item, in the town of Drypule were six acres of arable land, of which each acre was worth per annum, 2s. 6d. Amount, 15s. Which land, by the water of the Humber, etcetera. Item, in the town of Coldon were four messuages, six

bovates of land and a ploughed field (cultura) with the meadows belonging to the same, and six acres of pasture which were worth per annum, £5, and which were totally blotted out by the water of the great sea. Item, in the town of Otringham were 100 acres of arable land, of which each acre was worth per annum, 2s. Amount, £10. And there were there 40 acres of meadow, of which each acre was worth per annum, 4s. Amount, £8. All of which, etcetera. Item, in the towns of Wythornese and Hertburne were one messuage, one toft and one acre of meadow, which by a stream of the sea (per flumen maris) were destroyed and consumed. Which were worth per annum, 10s. The total amount of the value of the aforesaid consumed [properties], £238 8s. 9d. Whereof the tenth part is £23 16s. 10½d. Item, the chapel of Ravenserodde, with the same town, which was worth yearly, in spiritualities, £30 and more, formerly belonging to the parish church of Esyngton, by the overflowings, as well of the sea as of the Humber, was totally wasted and consumed. Item, the town of Hyth, with the lands and tenements, meadows and pastures in Skypse, Ulram and Cleton, which at one time pertained to our parish church of Skypse, and which were worth per annum, in spiritualities, £16 13s. 4d., by the overflowings of the sea were entirely wasted and consumed. Amount of the aforesaid spiritualities, £46 13s. 4d. Whereof the tenth part is £4 13s. 4d. The total amount of value, as well of temporalities as spiritualities, £285 2s. 1d. Whereof the tenth part is £28 10s. 2½d." *

SIR MARTIN DE LA MARE AND THE LANDING OF
EDWARD IV.

In a "Historie of the arrivall of Edward IV. in England and the finall recouerye of his kingdomes from Henry VI. A.D. m.cccc.lxxi.," printed in the first volume of the publications of the Camden Society (old series), the resistance offered to Edward by Sir Martin and the people of Holderness is referred to in the following words :

"Thrwghe whiche noysynge the people of the contrye that were gatheryd and assembled in dyvars placis, to the number of vj. or vij. thowsand men, by the ledinge and gwydyng of a priste the vycar of ———, in one place, and a gentleman of the same contrye, callyd, Martyn of the See, to th'entent to have resisted and lettyd [*i.e.*, hindered] hym his passage, by the stiringe of his rebells, theyr complices, and adherents, toke occasyon to owe and beare hym favowre in that qwarell," &c.

A chronicle of English events, quoted by Leland (*Collectanea*, ii., 503), states that "in the XLIX. Yere of King Henry the VI. cam King Edward with the Lord Hastings, the Lord Say, and ix. C. [*i.e.* 900] English Men, and iii. C. Fleminges with hange Gunnes, and wold have landid in Essax, and there the Erle of Oxfordes Brother put hym of. And after he landid sore wether beten yn Raven-

* *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa* iii., p. 288-286.

spurge in Yorkshire. And ther rose on hym Holdrenes Men whos [*sic*] Syr John Westerdale a Preste after caste into the Mareschal Se at London."

This passage is of especial interest, since it identifies the Holderness priest who opposed Edward IV. He is doubtless the John Westerdale of Beverley, who was ordained priest at York, 15th June, 1454. He was instituted vicar of Kayingham, 3rd October, 1467. He was probably cast into the Marshallsea for the part he took in opposing Edward IV. However this may have been, he held the living of Kayingham till 1479, in which year he died.

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